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XXIII. *Extracts from a MS. intituled “The Life of Mr. Phineas Pette, one of the Master Shipwrights to King James the First, drawn up by himself.” Communicated by the Reverend Samuel Denne, F. A. S.*

Read at the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES December 10, 1795, and February 4, 1796.

I Phineas Pette, being son of Mr. Peter Pette, of Deptford Strond in in the county of Kent, one of his majesty's shipwrights, was born in my father's dwelling-house in the same town on All Saints day in the morning, being the first day of November, in the year of our Lord 1570.

At nine years of age I was put to a free-school at Rochester, in Kent, to one Mr. Webb, with whom I boarded about one year; and afterwards lay at Chatham Hill in my father's lodgings at the Queen's house, from whence I went every day to school to Rochester, and came home at night for three years space; afterwards, by reason of my small profiting at this school, my father removed me from thence to Greenwich, to a private school kept by one Mr. Adams, where I so well profited, that in three years time I was fit for Cambridge.

In the year 1586, at Shrove-tide, against Bachelors' commencement, I was sent to the university of Cambridge, and by the means of Mr. Howel, a minister in Essex, was placed in Emanuel college, with a reverend tutor, president of the

house,



house, called Mr. Charles Chadwick, where I was allowed 20 £. per ann. during my father's life, besides books, apparel, and other necessaries.

In the year 1589, about the 6th of September, it pleased God to call to his mercy my reverend loving father, whose loss proved afterwards my utter undoing almost, had not God been more merciful to me; for, leaving all things to my mother's direction, her fatal matching with a most wicked husband, one Mr. Thomas Num, a minister, brought a general ruin to herself and family.

By reason of my mother's cross matching, my means of maintenance being wholly taken from me, and having no hopes of exhibition from my friends, I was forced, after four years continuance at Cambridge, my graces for Bachelor of Arts being passed both in house and town, to abandon the university presently after Christmas 1590.

At Candlemas after, I, by the instant persuasion of my mother, was contented to put myself to be an apprentice to become a shipwright (my father's profession), and was bound a covenant servant to one Mr. Richard Chapman of Deptford Strond, one of her majesty's master shipwrights, and one whom my father had bred up of a child to that profession; my allowance from him, to find myself tools and apparel, being bare but 46s. 8d. per ann. This man I served almost two years altogether, at Chatham in the queen majesty's works (and then he died), where I spent all that time, God he knows, to very little purpose.

After my aforesaid master his death, I laboured to have served Mr. Matthew Baker, one of her majesty's master shipwrights also, but, by the working of one Mr. Peter Buck, then clerk of the cheque at Chatham, and some other back friends,

friends, I was crossed in my service, and so put to my shifts, and left to the wide world without either comfort or friend, but only God.

At this time my eldest brother by my father's side, Mr. Joseph Pette, succeeded in my father's place one of her majesty's master shipwrights, which preferment, no doubt, God brought him to, the better to enable him to give his help to us; but we found it clear contrary; and I was constrained to ship myself to sea upon a desperate voyage in a man of war, not greatly caring what became of me.

I was shipped on this voyage a little before Christmas 1592, in a ship called the Gallion, Constance, of London, of the burden of 200 tons, or thereabouts, belonging to a gentleman of Suffolk, one captain Edward Glenham, for the carpenter's mate, the master carpenter being one Edward Goodhall, born in Deptford.

To my setting out to sea I found none of my kindred so kind as to help me with either money or clothes, or any other comfort, only another brother I had by my father's side, Peter Pette, then dwelling at Wapping, that vouchsafed me lodging, meat, and drink, till the ship was ready to sail; one William King, a yeoman in Essex, and a stranger to me, lent me £. 3. in ready money, to help to furnish my necessaries, which afterwards I repaid him again.

In this voyage I endured much misery for want of victuals and apparel, and, after twenty months spent in the Levant seas, coasts of Barbary and Spain, with many hazards both of loss of life and time, without taking any purchase of any value, we extreme poorly returned for Ireland into the river of Cork, and there taking leave both of ship and voyage, I travelled to Diving to visit my uncle, captain Thornton,

and my brother Noah, being then master with him in the Popenjay of the queen's majesty, and presently after bent my course for England, taking my passage at the town of Waterford.

With some difficulty I got to London some three days before Christmas 1594, having neither money nor apparel, and took up my lodging at my brother Peter's house in Wapping, who, although I returned very poor, yet vouchsafed me kind entertainment. The next day I presented myself to my brother Joseph, who received me very coldly, and out of his bounty lent me forty shillings to apparel myself, which I bestowed as frugally as I could, in Burthen-street in London, contenting myself as well as I could with mean attire, till such time as it should please God to provide better for me. At that time it so fell out, that there were certain of her majesty's ships to be made ready for the voyage of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins, among which the Defiance was to be brought into Woolwich dock to be sheathed; which work being commended to my brother Joseph's charge, he was contented to admit me, amongst many others, to be one, where I was contented to take any pains to get something to apparel myself, which by God's blessing I performed before Easter next after, and that in very good fashion, always endeavouring to keep company with men of good rank, far better than myself.

About Bartholomew tide in 1595, the Triumph of her majesty was had into Woolwich dock to be new built by Mr. Matt. Baker, under whom I was entertained as an ordinary workman, and had allowed me a boy, which was Thomas Wood, being the first servant that I ever kept. But presently after Mr. Baker was appointed to go in hand with the building of a great new ship at Deptford, called the Repulse, and

was admiral of my lord Essex's squadron in the Cadiz journey. The Triumph was appointed to my brother Joseph's charge, with whom I a while continued, but finding him unwilling to preserve me in his work, as next under him, with some passage of discontent betwixt us, I left him, and had ready entertainment by Mr. Baker in his new business at Deptford, yet no otherwise than an ordinary workman, with whom I continued from the beginning of the aforesaid ship till she was wholly finished, launched, and set sail on her voyage from Woolwich, which was about the latter end of April 1596. All that winter, in the evenings, commonly I spent my time to good purposes, as in cyphering, drawing, and practising to attain the knowledge of my profession, and then found Mr. Baker some time forward to give me instructions, from whose help I must acknowledge I received my greatest lights. At this time the lord admiral lay most of the winter at his house; I got some acquaintance amongst his men, and was much importuned to have attended his lordship in that voyage, which no doubt would have proved very much both profitable and beneficial unto me; besides it would have brought me into acquaintance and favour with the lord admiral; but some other reasons restrained me from all these likelihods, and kept me at home, to my no small hindrance as it fell out.

After I was discharged from the Repulse, my brother Joseph entertained me at Woolwich upon the Triumph, upon which I wrought till her launching, and the discharge of men from her; and afterwards was employed at my brother's at Limehouse, upon a small model for the lord Treasurer's house, called Theobald's. About this time I was desirous, by the instigation of some friends of mine, to have been a follower

follower of the lord Essex, and was three several times brought purposely to have been presented unto his lordship, but was every time delayed by reason of his great estate affairs, and the Lord of Heaven having otherwise in his secret wisdom determined to dispose of me.

In the beginning of 1597, my dear and loving mother departed at Weston in Suffolk, not far from Bury. In the latter end of March, or beginning of April, 1597, by the means of one Mrs. Gilbert Wood, one of the lord admiral's chamber, an especial good friend of mine, I was presented to the Lord High Admiral of England at his manor at Chelsea, where his lordship was not only pleased to accept me as his servant, but openly shewed such extraordinary respect to me, that I had much cause to give God thanks, who no doubt had stirred his honourable heart to regard me, but a simple and mean fellow, even far beyond my expectation or desert; and this was the very first beginning of my rising.

About Midsummer, 1598, was the Elizabeth Jonas launched out of Woolwich dock, and sudden preparations made to have received her majesty on board the ship riding afloat, but for some unknown reason her majesty came not at all. For even at that instant had one Mr. Wigs procured a commission for examination of certain abuses in the navy, which was pursued with a great deal of malice against divers particular men, but with very little profit to her majesty's service.

From Midsummer all the ensuing year to Christmas I lay still and idle without any manner of employment or coming-in but what my servants got with working now and then abroad, which was very little, and hardly able to buy me food.

food. About Christmas my honourable lord and master the Lord High Admiral commended me to an employment in Suffolk and Norfolk, for the finishing of a purveyance of plank and timber, formerly undertaken by one Child of Sole, who dealt in Norfolk, and, dying, left the busines in much disorder; and one Robert Ungle, who dealt in Suffolk, and for divers abuses by him there committed fled the country, and all the service in great disorder and spoile; for the rectifying of which abuses, saving of her majesty's provisions, and discharging of the country, it pleased my lord to make a choice of me to undertake the same, and to take order to send in all the said provisions of timber and plank; which accordingly I did, using all care and diligence in the performance of the same, for the benefit of her majesty's service, the content of my Lord Admiral, and his officers of the navy, and satisfaction of the countries where I had to do. Notwithstanding, through the malicious design of old Matthew Baker, Bright Adye, and others, all my doings and accounts were truly sifted (but thanks be to God), nothing could be found against me, so I had all my bills passed quietly, but by reason of Mr. Fulk Grevil being then Treasurer of the Navy did not greatly affect me, because of some particular spleen between him and Mr. John Trevor, then newly made surveyor, who was my especial and worshipful friend, he laid a rub in my way, cutting me off wrongfully 20£. in my accounts, after all my bills were past, and signed by the hands of the principal officers, according to the custom of the navy. All this year, 1599, I spent wholly in this service, in which time these occurrences happened.

In December, 1599, I began a small model, which being perfected, and exquisitely set out and rigged, I presented to

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my good friend Mr. John Trevor, who very kindly accepted
the same of me.

In the beginning of the year 1600, I, having no employ-
ment, determined with myself to have bought some part of
a castle carvel, and to have gone in her myself, whereby I
thought, by God's blessing, to have got an honest and con-
venient maintenance; and to that end I began to follow one
John Goodwin, of London, professor of the mathematics,
with whom I spent three days in a week in practice, and so
was purposed to have continued the whole year to the spring;
but God, who in his secret counsel had otherwise decreed of
me, altered all my determinations; for, upon the 28th of
June, I was sent for to the court, lying then at Greenwich, by
my honourable lord and master the Lord High Admiral, who,
after some speeches expressing both his love and honourable
care of me, his lordship concluded to send me down to Chat-
ham, where I was to succeed in the place of one John Hold-
ing, a shipwright, that was keeper of the plank-yard, tim-
ber, and other provisions (upon some displeasure turned out
of all). The means whereof being but small, *viz.* 18*d. per*
diem, and £. 6. *per annum* fee, for myself, and allowance for one
servant at 16*d. per diem*, I was very unwilling to undertake
so mean a place, by which I was neither sure of competent
maintenance, nor of any reputation; but that I was en-
couraged by the persuasion of my ever honoured lord,
who comforted me with promise of better preferment
to the utmost of his power, whereupon being contented
to accept his lordship's offer, I was the 27th of June
placed at Chatham by Sir Henry Palmer, the comptroller,
Mr. John Trevor, surveyor, and Mr. Peter Buck, clerk of
the ships.—Upon this occasion of my being placed at Chat-
ham

ham, my brother Joseph and I were reconciled, and ever after lived together as loving brethren. It also happened that Sir Fulk Grevil, then treasurer, continued his spleen against me, and for Mr. Trevor's sake opposed me all he could, which after turned me to much trouble.

In March 1601, I was made assistant to the master shipwright at Chatham, in the room of Mr. Thomas Badman. In this year the first business I undertook was the repairing of the Lion's Whelp, haled up at the storehouse and at Chatham. In the year 1602, I also new-built the Mone, haled up in the same place, enlarging her both in length and breadth.

In November 1602, Mr. Grevil, having undertaken the preparation of a fleet with her majesty, to be fitted to sea by a set time, was contented (upon my promise to him to procure the faid fleet to be fitted in six weeks) to receive me to his favour; which promise I accordingly (by God's gracious assistance) fully accomplished, by which means I gained his love, favour, and good opinion, had there not happened a sudden alteration, by the death of her majesty, which presently followed.

In 1603, I divers times solicited my brother to be joined packate * with him, but his remissness caused me to overslip the opportunity so long, that one Mr. Stephens of Limehouse, this year, by means of some great friends about my Lord High Admiral, got a general reversion of all the master shipwrights places, cutting me off from all hopes of any timely preferment, to my great discouragement, considering what pains I took at Chatham to further his majesty's service. When I

* Sic Orig.

was most dejected with the conceit of this enemy as I took it, it pleased God of his great mercy to me, when I least expected any such thing, to raise me up a means of some hope of preferment after this manner ; for, about 15th of January, a letter was sent post to Chatham from my honourable Lord Admiral, commanding me with all possible speed to build a little vessel for the young prince Henry to disport himself in about London bridge, and acquaint his grace with shipping, and the manner of that element ; setting me down the proportions, and the manner of her garnishing, which was to be like the work of the Ark Royal, battlementwise. This little ship was in length by the keel 28 feet, and in breadth 12 feet, garnished with painting and carving, both within board and without, very curiously, according to his lordship's directions. I laid her keel the 19th of January, wrought upon her by day as well as by night, by torch and candle light, under a great awning made with sails for that purpose. The sixth day of March after, I launched this ship, being upon a Tuesday, with a noise of trumpets, drums, and such like ceremonies, at such time used. I set sail with her on Friday after, being the third day. Between the Nore Head and the East end of Tilbury we had a very great storm, so that it was Sunday before we could get Gravesend, and on Monday we anchored at Blackwall. Mr. George Wilson, boatswain of the Lion, was master with me, and myself captain ; I was manned with almost all boatswains of the navy, and other choice men.

On Wednesday the 14th, by my Lord Admiral's command, we weighed from Limehouse, and anchored right against the Tower, before the king's lodgings, his majesty then being there before his riding through London. There the young Prince,

accompanied with the Lord Admiral, and divers of the Lords, came and took great pleasure in beholding the ship, being furnished at all points with ensigns and pendants. Friday the 16th, we unrigged, and shot the bridge; and the 17th we rigged again, and received both ordnance and powder from the Tower. On Tuesday afternoon, being the 18th day, fitted, with a noise of trumpets, drums, and fifes, we weighed and turned up with the wind at South-west as high as Lambeth, with multitude of boats and people attending upon us. As we passed by Whitehall, saluted the court with a volley of small shot and our great ordnance; and upon the ebb turning down again we did the like, and then taking in our sails we came to an anchor against the Privy Stairs. On Monday the 19th his majesty went by barge to the parliament. We shot our great and small ordnance off both at his taking barge and landing. All Tuesday and Wednesday we rode still, without doing any thing but giving entertainment to gentlemen, the king, and prince's servants, that hourly came on board us. On Thursday morning I received commands from the Lord High Admiral to prepare the ship, and all things fitted to receive the young prince aboard in the afternoon, who accordingly presently after dinner came on board us in his barge, accompanied with the Lord High Admiral, earl of Worcester, and divers others of the nobility. We presently weighed, and fell down as far as Paul's wharf, under both our topsails and fore-sails, and there came to an anchor; and then his grace, according to the manner in such cases used, with a great bowl of wine christened the ship, and called her by the name of *Disdain*. His Grace then withdrawing himself with the lords into the great cabin, there my honourable lord (and till then master), with his own hands presented

me to his grace, using many favourable words (far beyond my desert) in my commendations, with this addition, that I was a servant worthy the acceptance of the greatest prince in the world. From his hands it pleased his grace very thankfully to receive me as his servant, with many promises of his princely favour to me. The next day, being Friday, it pleased my Lord Admiral to entreat my worthy friend, Sir Thomas Trevor, to accompany me to the lord Thomas Howard, then Lord Chamberlain, from whom receiving a ticket, I was sent to St. James's, the prince's house, where, by Mr. Alexander and Mr. Abington, then gentlemen ushers, I was sworn his grace's servant, and by them presented to the prince before he went to dinner, with as much favour and respect as I could desire.

During my attendance at the court as his grace's captain of his ship, it pleased my honourable Lord Admiral to give orders to Sir Thomas Winebank *, and one of the clerks of the signet, to draw me a bill for the reversion of Mr. Baker or my brother Joseph Pette's place, which should first happen to be void, notwithstanding the Letters Patent formerly granted to Mr. Stephens, which accordingly was with all expedition performed, and the 11th of April following was presented to his majesty and signed, and shortly after passed the great seal; for the whole charge whereof I gave Sir Thomas Winbank £. 17. About the same time Sir Robert Mansell had his patent passed for the Treasurer of his majesty's navy.

My eldest brother, Joseph Pette, died November 15, 1605, and was buried on the 11th of November in Stepney church-

* Q. Winderbank.

yard;

yard ; my good friends Sir Robert Mansell, Sir Henry Palmer, Sir John Trevor, the principal officers of the navy, and many other good friends and neighbours, accompanied, who, after the funeral, returned to my brother's house, where they were all welcomed with a very great dinner and feast.

Presently after my brother's decease, it pleased my very good lord, the Lord High Admiral, to grant his warrant for my entrance into my brother's place to the effect of my letters patent, notwithstanding the claim made unto it by one Edward Stevens of Limehouse, who had formerly procured a general reversion of all the master shipwrights' places ; but, by reason the fee was mistaken, wherein his majesty was abused, and charged with an innovation, he could not prevail in his claim, albeit he often petitioned the Lords of the Council, and made great friends against me ; yet it pleased God, by the noble favours of the prince my master, and the Lord High Admiral's countenance, I enjoyed my place with a general approbation both of the state and officers, and so finished the year 1605.

The 17th of July, 1606, his majesty the noble king of Denmark arrived in England, against whose coming, being but only supposed two months before, I received private directions from the Lord High Admiral, and some of the principal officers, to have all the ships put into a comely readiness, which accordingly was performed in as decent and warlike a manner as if they had been prepared for sea. But, upon news of his arrival, they were all rigged and furnished with their ordnance, and great preparation made on board the Elizabeth Jonas, and the Bear, for entertaining the kings, queen, prince, and all the other states and troops. Wherein, I confess, I strove extraordinarily to express my service for the honour

honour of the kingdom ; but, by reason the time limited was short, and the busines great, we laboured night and day to effect it, which accordingly was done, to the great honour of our sovereign king and master, and the no less admiration of all strangers that were eye-witneses to the same. The solemnity of the entertainment was performed the 10th of August, being Sunday ; at this time Sir Oliver Cromwell, and other gentlemen, my very good friends, lodged at my house.

About the 15th of April, I received a warrant for going in hand with the ships at Woolwich ; whereupon I removed thither with my household presently after, and began to work upon the ark with a small company till provisions could be brought in to put on more workmen, which was not till the beginning of August, at which time I began to victual all the workmen.

The 25th I was elected and sworn master of the company of Shipwrights, and kept a feast with a great number of our friends, well stored with venison, at the King's Head in New Fish-street.

After my settling at Woolwich, I began a curious model for the prince my master, most part whereof I wrought with my own hands, which, being most fairly garnished with carving and painting, and placed in a frame, arched, covered, and curtained with crimson taffety, was, November 10, 1607, presented to the Lord High Admiral, at his lodgings at Whitehall, his lordship well approving of it. After I supped with his honour that night, he gave me commandment to carry the same to Richmond, where the prince my master then lay, which was accordingly performed the next day after, being Tuesday the 11th. On Wednesday morning, having acquainted Sir David Murray with my busines, and

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he delivering the same to his highness, order was given to have the model brought and placed in a private room in the long gallery, where his highness determined to see it in the afternoon. But my ever honoured old lord and master, unknown to me, studying by all means to do me good, had acquainted his majesty with this thing ; and, the same day, unlooked for of any, had procured his majesty to make a purposed journey from Whitehall to Richmond to see the model, where he came in the afternoon, accompanied only with the prince, the lord admiral, and one or two attendants. His majesty was exceedingly delighted with the sight of the model, and passed some time in questioning the divers material things concerning the same, and demanded whether I could build the great ship in all parts like the same ; for I will, says his majesty, compare them together when she shall be finished. Then the Lord Admiral commanded me to tell his majesty the story of the Three Ravens I had seen at Lisbon, in St. Vincent's church ; which I did as well as I could, with my best expressions, though somewhat daunted at first at his majesty's presence, having never before spoken before any king. It pleased his majesty to accept all things in good part, and to use me very graciously, and so returned to Whitehall the same night.

The succeeding year (1608) brought with it many great troubles ; for the lord of Northampton having, by the instigation of some that were not great friends to the Lord Admiral, and some of the principal officers of his majesty's navy in especial favour with his lordship, procured a great and large commission from his majesty, for enquiring into all the abuses and misdemeanors committed by all officers in their several places, under colour of reformation, and saving great sums to his majesty, which he expended yearly in the maintenance of his ships ; which inquisition was prosecuted with such

such extremity of malice, as not only many were brought into great question, and tossed to and fro before the commissioners at Westminster, to their no small charge and vexation; but the government itself of that royal office was so shaken and disjoined as brought almost ruin upon the whole navy, and a far greater charge to his majesty in his yearly expence than ever was known before. In this great inquisition it pleased God, for the punishment of my sins, to suffer me to be grievously prosecuted, and publicly arraigned, as shall in its proper place be more at large described.

The 20th of October, 1608, being Thursday, by God's help, I laid the keel of the new great ship upon the stocks in the dock, and the 25th I raised her, and presently after the stem, and so proceeded in order with the floor as fast as I could, notwithstanding the many practices underhand attempted to have diverted the whole course of the building. During the time that I proceeded with the new frame, the inquisition against the navy growing then to the height, was prosecuted with extremity of malice against Sir Thomas Trevor, Sir Robert Mansell, and some others, among whom myself held not the least place.

About the 5th of March, 1609, there was discovered unto me (by Mr. Sebastian Vicars, carver to the ships, my ever true and faithful friend) a secret combination against me, concerning the building of the great ship, suggested first by the practice of my fellows, old Mr. Matt. Baker, and Mr. William Bright, old adversaries to my name and family, assisted by Edward Stevens, a master shipwright, who laid great claim to my place by a former patent to him granted under the broad seal of England, with some other shipwrights also joined with them, by the especial warrant from the

the great lord of Northampton, my most implacable enemy, my fellows bearing me no small grudge, because by the prince's highness means, my master, I was preferred to that great business before them, and Mr. Stephens malicing me, because he could not prevail against me to recover my place from me. They had also won to their party by much importunity, and by means of a particular letter from the lord Northampton to him to that very purpose, a great braggadocio, a vain and idle fellow, some time a mariner and master, called by the name of captain George Weymouth, who, having much acquaintance abroad amongst gentlemen, was to disperse the insufficiency of my busines, reporting that I was no artist, and altogether insufficient to perform such a service; of no experience, and that the king was cozened, and all charges lost, and the frame of her was unfit for any other use but a dungboat, with many other such false opprobrious defamations, wherein he was better practised than in any other profession.

These rumours being thus divulged, the report thereof coming to Mr. Sebastian Vicars's ears, was the cause that he, out of his great love and honesty to me, wrote to me what he had already heard abroad, wishing me to keep a careful watch over myself, for that they would bend all their powers, practices, and friends, to the disgracing of the building, and ruining me. But I, being very confident of the goodness of my cause (though I received that admonition as from a dear friend, with much acknowledgment of his love and care to me), little regarded what their malicious practices could bring forth, made small reckoning after their plottings, till such time as the good honest man, understanding from some of their own mouths what was intended against me, made a

purposed journey to me to Woolwich (though he was scarce able to travel by reason of a tedious sicknes), and there thoroughly possessed me of the certainty of what he before by his writing had truly informed me.

I now perceiving it was no idle flim-flam, as I before supposed, considered that the goodness of my cause might by my secure neglect either suffer hazard, or be overborn by greatness, and began to call my wits about me, and to advise what was to be done in the busines; at which time, to make good the supposition, I received a message by word of mouth from a worthy gentleman, a good friend of mine, Mr. William Burrell, principal master-workman to the East India Company, of all their projects, which were discovered to him, particularly by that captain Weymouth, being at that instant time between drunk and sober.

The 13th of April, this Weymouth was by consent of the rest sent to Woolwich to survey my work, and thereupon to deliver his opinion; and I in the mean time was appointed to be at Rotherhithe, at a meeting at a court held for the incorporation of shipwrights, whereof I was in master, that in my absence he might have the better opportunity to perform his malicious instructions, as he was directed by his great master; of the which his purpose I receiving certain intelligence, leaving my intended journey to Rotherhithe, I waited his coming, and received him after a courteous manner; after some discourse and ordinary compliments, he returned back to his confederates, frustrate of his great purpose.

Within a few days after, I wrote something to this purpose to my very good friends Sir Robert Mansell, and Sir John Trevor, being then the treasurer and surveyor of the navy, desiring them, for that it was a busines highly concerning

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the honour of our honoured lord, the Lord High Admiral, and their own particular reputation, that they would be pleased to take the pains to make a sudden journey to Woolwich, there truly to inform themselves not only concerning the state of the work, but of divers other material businesses wherewith I was to acquaint them at their coming thither. According to my request, they both came the next day ; where being thoroughly possessed of all the passages and occurrences concerning the project of our adversaries, after they had also carefully surveyed the works, with all other things necessary to be advised of, leaving me with good deliberation and instructions how to proceed in my defence, they departed again to Westminster the same afternoon.

Presently after the departure of these gentlemen, desiring the Lord first to guide and direct my pen, so as might best tend to his glory, and the discharge of my duty, I betook myself to my study. In the briefest manner I could, I certified the Lord Admiral of the truth of all the whole project, plotted against me, with the names of the principal actors therein, and the reasons inducing them unto it ; withal earnestly beseeching his lordship to be pleased, since the matter so nearly concerned his majesty's profit, the honour of the state, his lordship's own safety, and the reputation of his office, to leave all respect of my particular good, and to procure such evidence to be presently made of the work, by judicious and impartial persons, as his majesty might receive no loss, the strength of the kingdom no prejudice, his honour no impeachment, and the officers of the navy no just calumnia nor blame.

It pleased his lordship, then lying at Whitehall, presently after the receipt of my letter, wherewith he was not a little

troubled to observe their malicious practices, to send for me to wait upon him, that by conference with me his lordship might be the better informed of each particular passage in this so dangerous information and conspiracy ; and after his lordship had received from me such satisfaction as he desired, comforting me with many noble encouragements, as being (as he said) sufficiently persuaded both of my skill, experience, and honesty, wishing me to take a good heart, and never a whit to distrust the goodness of my cause, albeit I had strong adversaries, but that God in his mercy would never permit such a malicious practice to prevail against those that rely upon him, with many other fatherly instructions ; and so being somewhat late for that night, his lordship was pleased to dismiss me, giving me commandment to attend his farther pleasure the next morning ; and this was the 20th of April. It was no sooner day the next morrow, but his lordship, very careful of doing something in this weighty business, made himself ready by four o'clock, taking my letter in his hand, speeds himself to his majesty's chamber, lying then at Whitehall, and sending in word that his lordship was there to acquaint his majesty with some business of great consequence, was presently admitted to his majesty's bed chamber, and having in a few words given his majesty a taste of his errand, delivered him my letter, and besought him to be pleased thoroughly to peruse the same. The letter his majesty read twice over, and, perceiving how malice was the original of all this stir, seemed greatly to pity the wrong and injury done unto me, using this gracious speech in my behalf, that whatsoever my act was he knew not, but I deserved great commendation for my honest plainness delivered in my letter, and that it was great reason I should be justly proceed withal. To the end therefore

fore that I might not be wrongfully oppressed, and the works disgraced without just cause, his majesty took present order with the Lord High Admiral, that he should join unto him the right honourable lords the earls of Worcester, then master of his majesty's horse, and of Suffolk, then lord high chamberlain, and repairing to Woolwich should there upon their oaths, honours, and faithful allegiance to his majesty, without respect of any particular person, call before them my accusers, and as well by examination of them, as trial of the work itself, both in point of sufficiency as well as of matter, as manner, should truly inform themselves, whether their main accusation so much concerning his majesty's honour were justly commenced or no, which charge by his majesty being performed, they should return the true report thereof with all speed to his majesty, as they should answer it upon their allegiance.

Whilst these things were ordering thus, my malicious adversaries were not idle, but plotting as fast against me, and had so far prevailed with the lord Northampton, that there should be a private warrant directed to the chief of them, *viz.* to Mr. Baker, Bright, and Stevens, and to some others whom they should associate with them; which warrant should have been signed with the king's own hand, to authorize them to repair to Woolwich, and there strictly to make a survey of the work, which being done, upon return of the insufficiency of the same under their hands, and confirmation by oath, it was resolved amongst them I should be turned out, and for ever disgraced, the work utterly defaced, and I never to come to any personal answer; and one of them, who could make his party strongest, would undertake the business, about

which

which they were in great contention amongst themselves who should be preferred to it. But it pleased my good God (who never leaves his servants destitute of his help when all other means fail them) so mightily to work for me, by means of my letter sent to my lord Admiral, and, as is shewed before, delivered to his majesty, so far to prevent their purposes, that upon that very day when they had determined to have displaced and disgraced me, that they were, unawares to them, warned by one of his majesty's messengers to appear before the three lords before named, to answer them at that very place and time wherein they made their account to triumph over me. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes; and this day was appointed to be on Tuesday the 28th of April, which time was accordingly kept, and the lords were come to Woolwich by nine o'clock the same morning.

The first thing they did was to take a diligent survey of the work; first, touching the form and manner of the same, and then concerning the goodness of the materials, which having very carefully perused, they repaired into the house, and sat at a little table in the middle of my dining-room. Their lordships being sat, first Mr. Baker was called, and demanded, for the good of his majesty's service, to deliver plainly what he could justly except against the ship, either by point of art, or insufficiency of the materials, and leading him from point to point concerning her proportion of length, breadth, depth, draught of water, height of jack, rake afore and abaft, breadth of the floor, scantling of the timber, and other circumstances; after a deal of frivolous arguings to no purpose, their lordships found, by his examination, nothing worthy of observing, and directly finding him to be more led out of an

envious malicious humour against me, than upon any certain ground of error in the mould, or probability of insufficiency of any of the materials used in the frame, whereupon he was dismissed. After him was Bright called, and then Stevens, who were so tript in their severall examinations, as their lordships found them in their answers clear contrary one to the other, almost in every question, by which their lordships concluded, as they did of Mr. Baker, that all this question and infamous report of the busines was plotted by them out of some malicious respects to disgrace me and my work, and not of any care or consonable regard for the good of his majesty's service, and so they were dismissed. Then was great Kilcow Weymouth called, who being examined as the others before him were, was able to say nothing to any purpose, but held their lordships with a long tedious discourse of proportions, measures, lines, and an infinite rabble of idle and unprofitable speeches, clean from the matter, wherewith their lordships were so much tired, that he was commanded silence.

Then every man being dismissed the room, they consulted in private about half an hour, and then we were all called in again, where their lordships, addressing their speech to me, delivered, that by all this time of inquiry they in their judgment could find no just cause of exception against the busines, and this accusation grew, for aught they could perceive, out of envy and malice, and therefore I had no cause to be discouraged in my service, but to go on both comfortably and cheerfully, assuring me they would so effectually return the account of the particulars of their day's work to his majesty, as should not only give his majesty satisfaction, but also secure and defend me from all the opposition any of my adversaries could practise against me, with many other noble speeches of encouragement;

ragement; and so about four o'clock in the evening, taking their coaches, they returned to court at Whitehall. The same night, after their coming to the court, their lordships repairing to his majesty, they there delivered the account of their journey, together with all particular passages in the same, there offering to prove upon their honours, allegiances, and lives, the ground of that conspiracy to spring from no other reason but inveterate malice to me, and that they found the business in every part and point so excellent as befitted the service of so royal a king, with which his majesty rested marvellous well satisfied.

My adversaries, whose malicious practices nothing could daunt, hunting after nothing so much as my ruin and utter disgrace, were so fired with this prevention, that redoubling their fury, they went altogether the next morning to their great patron and abettor, the lord Northampton, who being vehemently incensed before, to have such an affront to the proceeding of his commission, as he termed our courses to have wrought, was willing to entertain any thing that carried but likelyhod to give him means to be revenged on me for it. Therefore, after these caterpillars had discoursed to his lordship all the circumstances of the hearing before the lords, complaining very grievously, as they termed it, of their partiality to me, and bitterness to them, and that they were not suffered to speak, nor could be heard in any thing they could inform against me, they offering upon their lives to make good all their informations against me to be true, so that they might but gain an equal hearing, his lordship promised to move his majesty in the granting of a second hearing, where he doubted not, as he said unto them, but they should have amends made unto them for their former injuries, and obtain

obtain their purpose against me in despight of all my friends and upholders. His lordship upon this immediately repaired to his majesty, and there made a grievous complaint against the partiality of the three lords, which they shewed in the examination of the busines there in that behalf of the plaintiff, tendering to his majesty, that they did offer upon their lives to prove all their informations true ; and besought his majesty very earnestly, there might be a second examination committed to his lordship's care, whereby all partiality should be prevented, and his majesty receive better confirmations of their good service than what the lords had before upon their superficial survey, and partial examination, exhibited to his majesty. His majesty answered, that upon his lordship's first complaint, he had made special choice of three principal peers of the realm, of whose fidelity he was so well assured, that he could not but give credit to that account their lordships had returned upon their serious examination of that weighty business ; notwithstanding, seeing his lordship urged so earnestly a review and second examination, since it was a busines of such main consequence, for his better satisfaction and clearing all doubts and scruples, his majesty resolved to take the pains in his own person to have the hearing of the cause indifferently between all parties, appointing Monday the 8th of May following to be the time for the said hearing at Woolwich, in the yard where the ship was building, giving orders to the Lord High Admiral to provide for the same, and to command all such persons as were any ways interested in the busines to give their personal attendance upon his majesty at that time and place. This resolution of his majesty made known, there was preparation of both sides to be provided, both of information and defence,

to give his majesty satisfaction. But the contrary partieſ, doubting their malicious practices would now be plainly discovered, never dreaming of ſuch a course, ſtill laboured to bring disgraces upon me, informing, in the interim of ten days, if I might be ſuffered to continue the workmen on the frame, I would ſo handle the matter, that all things ſhould be reformed that had by them been formerly found defective both in point of materials and proportions, and therefore were earnest fuitors to have all the workmen preſently diſcharged, and the work to ſtand.

His majesty, upon the advice of ſome of the lords, whereof the then lord treasurer, Sir Rober Cecil, and earl of Salisbuſy, being chief, would not conſent to any conditions to have the workmen diſcharged; but that orders ſhould be taken that the work ſhould ceafe, and the men be continued at his majesty's charge, till the hearing ſhould be paſt, and his majetty to determine what was after to be done; whereupon his majetty commanded a letter to be written to me to the ſame effect, charging me upon my allegiance to follow the direc-tions therein contained, which I accordingly very carefully obſerved. In the mean time, no day almoſt paſſed wherein Mr. Baker, Bright, Stevens, Clay, Graines, captain Wey-mouth, with their malicious associates, did not meet at Woolwich, to take all the dimensions of the ſhip, to deface the works by ſtriking aside the shores, and condenming the ma-terials, aggravating continual diſgrace upon me, and railing deſpitefully to my face, which I was forced to endure with pa-tience, and put up with ſilence, flying to God, on whose mercy I wholly depended in theſe extremitieſ.

The good Lord Admiral was not idle in this interim to provide for and to give his majetty full ſatisfaction in all things

things that could be objected by the informers, and to that purpose carefully advising with Sir Robert Mansell and Sir John Trevor, principal officers of his majesty's navy, together with myself whom it did most concern, what course was to be held to meet with all objections, that could by any means be produced against me; for that the adverse party had made choice of a certain number of masters and builders in the river of Thames to strengthen their proceedings, it was held fit and resolved the like course should be taken by us for our better defence; whereupon sundry experienced men, known to be honest and impartial of both sides, were nominated and appointed, by the Lord Admiral's warrant, to attend this service; some inhabiting about the river of Thames, and others of remote places; with whom divers consultations were held, as well to inform them of the truth of every particular, as also to satisfy their doubts in any thing wherein it was fit they should be thoroughly resolved. I, for my own part, confident of my own integrity, commending my cause to God, provided myself to be able to answer all objections whatsoever that could be alleged against me, either in point of art, experience, or care, in this so weighty service of trust and consequence. I must not here forget the princely favour of my royal then master, prince Henry of ever famous memory, who, in his noble care of me, in the interim of the time appointed by his majesty for my hearing, did almost every day send me a comfortable encouragement by some one of his princely gentlemen, to hearten me and to put life in me, lest I should any way be disheartened with the apprehension of the power of my great and potent adversaries, and, when the time drew near for my trial, sent me a commandment to wait on his grace the Sunday preceding the day at

Saint James's, which accordingly I performed ; where his highness vouchsafed to lead me in his hand, through the park to Whitehall, in the public view and hearing of many people there attending to see him pass to the king his father ; and in such loving manner counsel me with such comfortable, wife, and grave advice, touching my carriage and resolution in my trial, as was no little testimony of his principal care of me, to my great comfort, and joy of all those who were both eye and ear witnesses of it. Besides, casting the worse that might be, if I had been overthrown by the censures of his majesty, his highness had graciously determined to have received me into a place in his house, and resolved to provide for me while I lived.

The time drawing near, there were sent from London, at the appointment of the Lord Admiral, hangings to furnish the room where his majesty was to sit, and the next room to it where he was to withdraw, the one being the common dining-room of the workmen, the other my own dining-room, both which I caused to be hanged and trimmed up with such furniture as was befitting such a presence, with all conveniency the place could any way afford.

On Monday morning, being the 8th day of May, the Lord Admiral came betimes to Woolwich, attended by Sir Robert Mansell, Sir John Trevor, and others, where his lordship was met by all those persons who were formerly warned to be there on our part, and his lordship took those rooms which were fitted for his majesty. Presently after came the lord Northampton, attended with all the spiteful crew of his informers, and he took Hugh Lyddiard's house, being clerk of the cheque, which was fitted for him, and was there attended with all his rabble. Before his majesty's coming, Weymouth

and

and his associates pried up and down the yard, belching out nothing but disgraces and deceitful speeches, and base opprobrious terms, being so confident of their wicked ends, as they before had given out that I should be hanged, and the work defaced at the least, which was likely enough to have proved so, had not God put a hook in their nostrils, and, by the justice of the king, caused themselves to fall into the pit they designed for another. The noble admiral spent the time till his majesty's coming very quietly and privately, consulting advisedly with those appointed for the business, never so much as taking notice of the base usage of them on the other side.

All things being in readiness, about eight o'clock his majesty came in his coach, attended with prince Henry, and the principal lords of his majesty's counsel. The lord Northampton met him before he came to the ordinary gate of the yard, and used all the means he could to have led his majesty through Lyddiard's garden by a back way into his house; but his majesty told his lordship, that the Lord Admiral, whom he espied waiting with his train at the ordinary gate of the yard, would justly take exceptions at his so doing, for that it belonged properly there to his lordship to receive and entertain him; so alighting, the Lord Admiral, after his duty performed, guided his majesty in the room provided purposely for the business, whom I ushered as belonging to my place.—After his majesty had a little reposèd, he desired the Lord Admiral to bring him to the sight of the work then in hand; which being done, directing his majesty to a brow or stage, made at the stem of the ship, where he might take a perfect view of the whole ground-work of the frame, being then about half set up, and planked as high as the wrong-heads, no foot wailing as yet begun.

After

After his majesty had satisfied himself sufficiently, he returned back to the place again, and there seated himself in the chair under the state, at a little table standing right before him ; the prince and lords taking their stands on his majesty's right hand, with the Lord Admiral and all those warned on our part, and the lord Northampton on the left hand of his majesty, with all his crew of informers, and others appointed to assist him on his part, of sea-masters and shipwrights of the Thames. These things thus ordered, his majesty (silence being commanded by his gentleman usher) began a very worthy speech ; first, to signify the cause of his coming to that place, and how much it imported the royal care of a king to take to his personal examination a business of such consequence, as so much concerned the strength and honour of the kingdom and state, besides the expence of his treasure ; then he addressed his speech to the actors on both sides, to those who were informers, and to those that were defendants, the substance of his royal speech tending to religious exhortation, that none on both sides should either accuse for malice or other pretence, or excuse for love, favour, or other particular respects ; for that his majesty, in the seat of justice representing God's person, would not be deluded nor led by any coloured pretences from understanding the very plain truth of that business which was to be handled ; and therefore wished such on both sides, whose conscience accused them either of malicious proceedings, private ends, or partial favour, to give over, and depart before they took the oaths to be administered to them, threatening severe punishment to those who should be found offenders herein, declaring what danger it was to be perjured before the majesty

of God and the King. His majesty's speech so effectually delivered to the purpose of the matter in hand to the admiration of the hearers, commandment was given to call the names of those to be sworn on both sides.

The names were then specified—the persons were in number,

On the lord Northampton's side On the other side

14 seamen, 8 shipwrights, 14 seamen, and
and 2 other informers. 13 shipwrights.

These several persons called and appearing, the form of the oath was read unto them by the earl of Salisbury, lord treasurer, who personated the clerk of the session, and the book was presented to them by the right honourable Charles Howard earl of Nottingham, Lord High Admiral; this and these ceremonies performed, his majesty willed the lord Northampton to begin his accusation, and then I was called personally to answser, and kneeled right before his majesty near the side of the table, the Lord High Admiral standing on my right hand, Sir Robert Mansell and Sir John Trevor standing both right behind me. The accusation against me was exhibited by lord Northampton in writing, containing sundry articles in point of my sufficiency, art, and experience, and in point of my care and honesty in discharge of my duty, in unserviceable materials, to the great detriment of his majesty's service. His majesty perceiving the articles to be many, and very intricate to answer each particular, very judiciously contracted the business to three principal heads,—the point of art—the point of sufficiency of materials—and the point of charge—and to these heads I was commanded to make my answers, and they their accusations. I must confess, that at the first I was so daunted at the majesty of the king, the power of my enemies, and the confused urging of the objections, that I

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was confounded in myself, till it pleased God, by the help of the lord treasurer, and his discreet directions, I was recollected, and recovered my spirits, and so orderly answered to each objection, his majesty still holding us on both sides to the proportions. Much time was spent in dispute of proportions, comparing my present frame with former precedents, and dimensions for the best ships for length, breadth, depth, floor, and other circumstances, in all which they could not fasten any thing upon me, but reflected to their disgrace and apparent breach of oath, and plain demonstration and expression of combined practice. Our point of proportion was mainly insisted upon, and with much violence and eagerness urged on both sides, which was the square of the ship's flat in the midships, they offering constantly upon their oaths it was full 13 feet, we as constantly insisting that it was 11 feet 8 inches. But, because this difference was long, and could not be tried upon the small plats, his majesty referred the trial to be made on the great platform, which was purposely framed of planks to the full scale of the ship, where all the lines of the midship bend were drawn, and the square of the flat only described, with their centres, perpendiculars, and sweeps; which trial, because it much concerned the truth or falsity of all the rest, his majesty would not give trust to any of those who by oath were interested in the same; but made choice of the noble and worthy knight, Sir Thomas Chaloner, the governor of the prince his highness household, and of the learned reverend Mr. Briggs, reader of geometry lecture in Gresham college in London, and master of arts, student in St. John's college, Cambridge, who were to decide the controversy. This thus concluded, we came to the point of charge,

to which was answered, that the charge of building this ship should not exceed other ships that had been built in her majesty's time, I mean queen Elizabeth of famous and happy memory, allowing proportion for proportion, the garnishing not exceeding theirs. This gave full satisfaction to the point of charge, being the second head propounded.

It being then almost one o'clock, his majesty called for his dinner, referring the other points to be handled in the ship after dinner. All this time I sat on my knees, baited by the great lord and his bandogs, sometimes by Baker, sometimes by Stevens, Bright, Clay, gaping Weymouth, and sometimes confused by all; and, which was worst, his majesty's countenance still bent upon me; so that I was almost disheartened and out of breath, albeit the prince's highness standing near me from time to time encouraged me as far as he might without offence to his father, labouring to have me eased by standing up, but his majesty would not permit it. So soon as his majesty and the lords had dined, the king rose and went into the body of the frame of the ship, to make trial of the goodness of the materials; all the lower futtocks were placed, and many upper futtocks also. The adverse party had chalked with a mark almost half the lower futtocks for red wood, cross-grained, and merely unserviceable, all which timber his majesty caused to be dubbed by workmen ready with their tools for that purpose; and, being tried, they were all approved very sound and serviceable; and, touching the cross-grained timber, his majesty said very earnestly "the cross-grain was in the men, and not in the timber." His majesty spent much time in the survey of these things, still opening way to what objections the adverse party could

could allege, and what answer I could make for my defence. This business performed within board, his majesty well satisfied in every particular, he openly delivered, that the ship would be too strong, if one third part of the timber were left out, and then began to give me a princely countenance and encouragement, protesting oftentimes, that all this grievous accusation proceeded of nothing but malice. Then his majesty came without board, and curiously surveyed the planks, the treenails, and workmanship, all which gave such satisfaction as still confirmed his opinion of their malicious proceedings. All the while his majesty was intent upon this search, the gentlemen forenamed, who were appointed for the trial of the point of the true flat of the floor, were busied in taking the measures from the ship, and bringing them to the platform; and when they found by due trial all lines to be truly set off, they acquainted his majesty that all things were in readiness. His majesty, having then received satisfaction of all things about the frame, repaired to the platform, attended with the prince, lords, and many thousand spectators besides. His majesty caused the gentlemen to measure each dimension of breadth and depth for his own satisfaction, and then coming to the point of the square of the floor, whether it were answering their assertion of thirteen feet, or agreeable to ours of eleven feet eight inches. The square of thirteen feet was tried from the true centre, and perpendicular, which being applied to the swaps of the mould did differ about sixteen inches; at the wronghead the like trial made by our true centre and perpendicular fell as just in our lines as could be possible; which done, his majesty with a loud voice commanded the measurers to declare publickly the very truth; which

which when they had delivered clearly on our side, all the whole multitude heaved up their hats, and gave a great and loud shout and acclamation. And then the prince his highness called with a high voice in these words; “Where be now these perjured fellows, that dare thus abuse his majesty with these false informations? Do they not worthily deserve hanging?”

By that time all these things were performed, and his majesty wonderfully satisfied, and it growing something late, his majesty returned again into the hall where he formerly sat, and being placed, and the room filled as full as it could be packed, his majesty began a most worthy and learned speech for conclusion of the busines, wherein he expressed, with many effectual speeches, what content he received in bestowing his pains that day to so good a purpose. Next, his majesty addressed himself to the lord Northampton for his great care and diligence for searching out such errors in the office of the admiralty, wherein his majesty and the state were abused, with encouragement for him to go forward with prosecuting his commission, notwithstanding his lordship had been misinformed by being drawn to question this busines. Next directed his speech to Mr. Baker, Bright, Stevens, and the rest of the informers, very bitterly reprehending their malicious practices, more to bring to effect their own private ends, than out of any confcionable care of the good of his majesty’s service, or benefit of the state, repining at the preferment I had, and the countenance of his son the prince, combining together to disgrace and ruin me; though otherwise they envied one another, and were at controversy who should be preferred to my business, with many good exhortations to will them to beware how they did abuse the majesty

of God, and himself his substitute, with malicious informations, in which he could do no less than think them perjured, as in the prosecuting of this whole business was too apparent to himself and all the world, whereby they deserved to be punished severely, if he should censure them as they worthily merited.

His majesty then began to shew me a very pleasing countenance, and turned his speech to me, willing me not to be discountenanced with those proceedings against me, since he was now sufficiently persuaded of my honesty, integrity, and ability to perform what I had undertaken ; advising me not to refuse counsel of my fellow servants, since it was his service, wherein we ought to join together for his good, and the honour of the state, with many other princely expressions of his good opinion of me, and readiness not only to give me countenance, but assurance of future favour toward me ; and, lastly, he cleared all imputations and aspersions unjustly cast upon the Lord Admiral, with recital of all his honourable service performed to the honour of the state, and his perpetual fame ; commending his great wisdom and impartial carriage of himself in this day's trial, wherein he was never observed to give impediment to his majesty's proceedings, but all furtherance possible, as was both evidently manifest to his majesty by the great pains he had endured that day, and the noble patience he had given public testimony of to all present, who were eye-witnesses, with many other gracious speeches to put new life and power into him, to go on as he had begun, to the perpetual remitting his name and honour. Then giving general thanks to those who had taken pains in that day's busines, with protestations of his princely care in all matters of such

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consequence, for the safety and honour of the state and kingdom, he concluded his speech.

Then the noble Admiral, as his majesty was rising, humbly besought his majesty to license him to speak a few words, as well to declare his own innocency concerning these unjust accusations, as to clear me in the point of my insufficiency, and care and honesty to perform the service intrusted to me : to which his honour's request (though it grew now to be late) his majesty most willingly condescended. The sum of his lordship's speech tended to admire and extol his majesty's justice, great wisdom, and princely care of the good of the commonwealth, in that he had refused no pains (as this day's work and honourable assembly could justly witness) to provide, to rectify, and to set streight, to the wonder and admiration of them all, a work of so great consequence, and of such a kind of intricacy, as his majesty had never been accustomed to before, and yet so clearly to examine and try in so short a space, as if he had been only bred and accustomed to such elements, with many other speeches tending to that purpose. His lordship then laying his hand upon my head, standing next to him upon his right hand, did there freely offer to pawn all his lands, his honour, and his life, in my behalf, for the performance and finishing of this royal work ; which being once perfected, if his majesty (by advice of the best experienced artists and seamen of his kingdom) should dislike, he would willingly, with the aid of his friends, take off from his majesty's hands, at his and their proper charge, without any damage to his majesty. To this speech his majesty replied briefly with a gracious acknowledgment of his princely acceptance of his lordship's true and faithful service and zeal expressed in that his worthy speech, of which

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he had so great assurance as he confidently protested never king could be more happy than himself in the service of such an honourable subject, and therefore there was no need why he should any way engage either himself or his honour in that which his majesty had by the course of upright justice before the face of God and the world so apparently cleared. This said, his majesty arose.

In passing through the hall, the Lord Admiral going before, and leading me in his hand, the lord Thomas Howard, then lord chamberlain of the household, made a motion to his majesty to lay a charge upon me, that I should not make any quarrel against any person or persons that had that day given information against me, alleging, he knew my stomach to be such (as if I were not contained by his majesty's commandment), I would call them to account for their doings, whereupon blood might ensue. His majesty giving ear to what his lordship advised, gave him thanks for his worthy counsel, and calling me to him before the whole company, I *sitting upon my knees**, he gave me an especial charge upon my allegiance and life, that I should not quarrel or challenge any person or persons whatsoever, that had that day given information against me, alleging, I had honour sufficient to have been cleared of all questions and objections unjustly charged against me by the equity of my cause and his justice. This speech concluded, his majesty hasted to take his coach, which attended at the gate. The noble lord brought me in his hand to kiss his royal hand, and take my leave. His majesty gave me his hand to kiss with such an expression of his princely favour and encouragement to proceed cheerfully in

* Sic in MS.

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my business, as did not only infuse new life into me, but also gave great comfort and content to all standers by. Then I presented myself upon my knee to the most noble prince, my then master, who, taking me from the ground, did so affectionately express his joy for my clearing, and the satisfaction his father had received that day, that he protested he would not only countenance and comfort me hereafter, but take care to provide for me and my posterity whilst he lived. I received the like noble courtesy from all the lords, who declared their joy for the happy success God gave me in this great deliverance. The great lord Northampton, seeing the event of this business, and that all things sorted out clear contrary to his expectation, railing bitterly against his informing instruments, took the back way to his coach, and would not so much as take leave of his majesty, but posted away with no little expression of great discontentment, as did also the rest of their partakers.

The Lord Admiral attended his majesty, being never better content in all his life, and returned to Whitehall with the company, it being almost eight o'clock before they went from Woolwich. Sir Robert Mansell, Sir John* Trevor, captain Button, and the rest of my good friends followed, amongst whom was the good old lady Mrs Mansell, and Mrs. Button, who had taken the pains to attend the hearing in an inner room all that day. This day, as it was a very tedious day to me by reason I was to answere all objections, and kneel so long together, so was it a day of jubilee to me, a day never to be forgotten by me nor mine, wherein my good God shewed me wonderful favour and mercy to enable me to en-

* Thomas in the MS.

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dure the frowns of the king, and to strengthen my weak abilities to withstand the malice of such and so many powerful adversaries by the space of one whole long summer's day. For, albeit his majesty was sufficiently persuaded of their malice and my integrity, yet till he had cleared all doubts by the course of strict examination, and found me in his justice guiltless, he would shew me no countenance at all, but after their malice was discovered, and all those heads and points fully answered, and clearly resolved, his majesty then both in countenance, words, and all other princely expressions, declared his royal disposition towards me.

The next day, being the 9th of May, I began to work again, every man striving to express his willingness thereunto, by reason of the great encouragement his majesty had publicly and generously given them; and within two or three days after, the Lord Admiral, Sir Robert Mansell, Sir John* Trevor, advising together with me, we resolved to move the lords of the council, to have two principal men, who were shipwrights, to be by their order appointed to repair twice at least in the week to Woolwich, to survey the provisions, and to foresee that no unserviceable materials should be wrought upon the ship, which we did to clear all suspicion of any ends of our own. This accordingly was consented to of the lords, and Mr. Matthew Baker and Henry Reynolds were appointed to be overseers, who, for fashion's sake, some three or four times came to Woolwich; but finding our care to be more to perform honestly, than theirs could be to prevent with their best endeavours, they gave over the trust recommended to them, and left me to myself.

* Thomas in the MS.

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The 7th of June, the Red Lion, which was newly built by Mr. Baker of Deptford, was launched, where were present the king's majesty and the prince ; I attending then near the place at the great storehouse end, where his majesty had his standing, he was pleased very graciously to conter with me, and to use me with extraordinary expressions of his princely favour.

The 8th of June, being the Thursday in Whitsun week, his majesty began to hear the great and general cause of the navy, in his presence chamber at Greenwich, wherein three whole days were spent in several examinations of the truth and circumstances of the informations delivered by the lord Northampton and his agents, against Sir Robert Mansel, Sir John Trevor, and Captain Button, Sir Thomas Bluther, Mr. Legatt, and many others, together with myself. First day the lord Northampton made the very entrance into the busines, a great complaint of the dishonour he reaped by the hearing at Woolwich, insiting very maliciously in incensing his majesty against me and others, who, as he said, traduced him in every tavern and alebench, to his great dishonour ; and therefore humbly besought his majesty that busines might be again called in question, alledging the confidence of the informers, who were ready to maintain the truth of the former information with their lives. His majesty, taking it ill that my lord should dare to question his just proceedings which he had taken such pains personally to hear determined, took him short with a sharp reprehension, and willed him no further to insist upon that whereof his majesty and the whole world were so sufficiently satisfied.

In the beginning of January, 1610, there were two new ships, built at Deptford for the East India merchants, to be

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launched,

launched, whereat his majesty, with the prince, and divers lords, were present, and feasted with a banquet of sweetmeats, on board the great ship in the dock, which was called The Trade's Increase; the other was called The Pepper Corn, the names being given by his majesty. I did there attend, and receive gracious public usage from his majesty, the prince, and the lords. The tide was so bad that the great ship could not be launched out of the dock; and the smaller, which was built upon the wharf, was so ill struck upon the launching ways, that she could by no means be put off, which did somewhat discontent his majesty. The last day of January, the prince's highness came to Woolwich to see what forwardness the ship was in, where I gave him and his followers entertainment. The 7th of January, by commandment from the prince's highness, I attended at the great feast made by him at St. James's to the king, queen, duke of York, lady Elizabeth, and lords of the council, and all the knights who were actors at the barriers. The supper was not ended till ten at night; whence they all went to the play, and, that ended, returned again to a fet banquet in the gallery, where the supper was, the table being 120 feet long, and it was three o'clock in the morning before it was all finished. The 25th of April, the prince's highness came to Woolwich, and dined there with all his train in my dining-room. The second of May, the lady Elizabeth, with her train, came to see the great ship at Woolwich, and was entertained by my wife, I being in London. The 18th of June, the prince's highness came to Woolwich to see the ship, which was now in great forwardness, and almost ready; and the next day he came thither again, in company with the king his father, and a great train attending on them. In the afternoon his
majesty

majesty spent almost two hours in great content, in surveying the ship, both within and without, protesting it did not repent him to have taken such great pains in examination of the business of the work, since the fruit thereof yielded him such content. His majesty then did me the honour to come into my house, where my wife had prepared a banquet of sweet-meats and such fruits as were then to be had, whereof he was pleased to taste plentifully, and did very graciously accept of his homely entertainment, giving me special commandment not to launch the ship till his progres was ended.

Between Easter and Michaelmas that the ship began to be garnished, it is incredible what numbers of people continually resorted to Woolwich, of all sorts, both nobles, gentry, and citizens, and from all parts of the country round about, which was no small charge to me, in giving daily entertainment to all comers, which could not possibly be avoided in that place at such a time. The 9th of September, being Sunday, about six o'clock in the morning, divers London maids coming to see the ship, brought in their company a little boy of twelve years old, the only child of his mother, a widow woman dwelling in Tower-street, who carelessly going up and down upon the main orlop, fell down into the hold of the ship, and was thereby so bruised and broken, that he died before midnight, being the first mischance that had happened in the whole time of the ship's building. About the middle of this month, being ready to have the ship stricken down upon her ways, I caused twelve of the choice master carpenters of his majesty's navy to be sent for from Chatham, to be assisting in her striking and launching; and, upon the 18th day, being Tuesday, she was safely set upon her ways; and this day Sir Robert Mansell dined with me at my lodgings. The

20th of this month the French ambassador came to Woolwich to see the ship, whom I entertained in the best manner I could ; and in the time of his being with me, the prince, my royal master, sent me a wonderful fat buck, which he killed with his own hand.

Now began we on all sides for the preparations to launch the ship, and for that purpose there was provided a rich standard of taffety very fairly gilded with gold, with his majesty's arms to be placed on the poop, and a very large ensign of crimson rich taffety, with a canton of the prince's crest to be placed upon the quarter deck, and all other ornaments were carefully provided befitting that purpose. There was a standing set up in the most convenient place of the yard for his majesty, the queen, and the royal children, and places fitted for the ladies and council (all railed in and boarded). All the rooms, both in my own lodgings and at Mr. Lydiard's, were prepared, and very handsomely hanged and furnished with a cloth of state, chairs, stools, and other necessaries. Nothing was omitted that could be imagined any ways necessary both for ease and entertainment. Upon Sunday in the afternoon, being the 23d, Sir Robert Mansel, Sir John Trevor, and Sir Henry Palmer, came to Woolwich to see how every thing was ordered ; and finding all things prepared and fitted to their liking, about three o'clock they returned all to Deptford, where they lodged that night with Sir Robert Mansel. This evening, very late, there came a messenger to me from them, bringing a letter, which was sent to them from court at Theobalds, to give me orders to be very careful to search the ship's hold, for fear some persons disaffected might have bored some holes privily in the ship to sink her, after she should

should be launched ; but my care had prevented their fears beforehand, so far as could be searched or discovered.

On Monday morning, assisted by the help of my brother, Pimonson, and sundry others of my friends, we opened the dock gates, and made all things ready against the tide ; but the wind blowing very hard at South-west kept out the flood, so that it proved a very bad tide, little better than a neap, which put us afterwards to great trouble and hazard. The king's majesty came from Theobalds, though he had been very little at ease with a scouring, taken with surfeiting by eating grapes, and landed here about eleven o'clock, prince Henry attending him, and most of the lords of the council. The Lord Admiral, attended by the principal officers of the navy, together with myself, received him on land out of his barge, and conducted him to the place provided for him in Mr. Lydiard's house. His dinner was dressed in our great kitchen. After dinner came the queen's majesty, accompanied with the duke of York, lady Elizabeth, and divers great lords and ladies in her train, the drums and trumpets placed on the poop and forecastle, and the wind instruments by them, so that nothing was wanting to so great a royalty that could be desired. When it grew towards high-water, and all things ready, and a great close lighter made fast to the ship's stem, and the queen's majesty with her train placed ; the Lord Admiral gave me commandment to heave taught the crabs and screws, though I had little hope to launch by reason the wind over blew the tide : yet the ship started, and had launched, but that the dock gates pent her in so straight, that she stuck fast between them, by reason the ship was nothing lifted by the tide, as we expected she would ; and the great lighter, by unadvised counsel, being cut off the stem, the ship settled.

so hard upon the ground, that there was no possibility of launching that tide ; besides which, there was such a multitude of people got into the ship, that one could scarce stir by another.

The noble prince himself, accompanied with the Lord Admiral and other great lords, were on the poop, where the standing great gilt cup was ready filled with wine, to name the ship so soon as she had been afloat, according to ancient custom and ceremony performed at such times, by drinking part of the wine, giving the ship her name, and heaving the standing cup overboard. The king's majesty was much grieved at the frustrate of his expectation, coming on purpose, though very ill at ease, to have done me honour. But God saw it not so good for me, and therefore sent this cross upon me, both to humble me and to make me know, that, howsoever we purposed, he would dispose all things as he pleased ; so that about five o'clock his majesty, with the queen and all her train, departed away to Greenwich, where the household were removed. Prince Henry staid a good while after his majesty was gone, conferring with the lord admiral, principal officers, and myself, what was to be done, and leaving the Lord Admiral to stay here to see all things performed that were resolved on. He took horse, and rode after the king to Greenwich, with promise to return presently after midnight.

So soon as the multitude were gone and all things quiet, we went presently in hand to make way with the fides of the gates, and having great store of scavel men and other labourers, we had made all things ready before any flood came ; which performed, every man applied himself to get victuals and to take rest. The Lord Admiral sat up all night in a chair in his chamber till the tide was come about the ship ; and

Sir

Sir Robert Mansel, Sir John Trevor, and Sir Henry Palmer, and the rest, made a shift in my lodging to rest themselves. The beginning of the night was very fair, and bright moon-shine, the moon being a little past full; but after midnight the weather was sore overcast, and a very sore gust of rain, thunder, and lightning, which made me doubt that there were some indirect working among our enemies to dash our launching. These gusts lasted about half an hour with great extremity, the wind being at South-west. In the midst of this great gust prince Henry and all his were taken upon the top of Blackheath in their coming to Woolwich; but his invincible spirit, daunted with nothing, made little account of it, but came through, and was no sooner alighted in the yard, but calling for the Lord Admiral and myself, and Sir Robert Mansel, went all presently on board the ship, being about two o'clock, almost an hour before high water, and was no sooner entered but the word being given to set all taught, the ship went away without any straining of screws or tackles till she came clear afloat in the middle of the channel, to the great joy and comfort of the prince's highness, the lord admiral, and all the rest of my noble friends; which mercy of God to me I pray I may never forget. His highness then standing upon the poop with a selected company only, besides the trumpeters, with a great deal of expression of princely joy, and with the ceremony of drinking in the standing cup, threw all the wine forwards towards the half deck, and solemnly calling her by the name of the Prince Royal, the trumpets sounding all the while, with many gracious words to me, gave the standing cup into my own hands, and would not go from the ship till he saw her fast at her moorings.

ings. In heaving down to the moorings, we found that all the hawsers that were laid ashore for landfasts were treacherously cut to put the ship to hazards of running ashore, if God had not blessed us better. In the interim of warping to her moorings, his highness went down to the platform of the cook-room, where the ship's beer stood for the ordinary company; and there finding an old can without a lid, went and drew it full of beer himself, and drank it off to the Lord Admiral, and caused him, with the rest of his attendants, to do the like. At nine the same morning, being very rainy, he took his barge, accompanied with the Lord Admiral, and the rest of his train, and giving us a princely gracious farewell, rode against the tide to Greenwich, where he made relation of all the busines, and the circumstances thereof, to the king his father. We then came ashore to refresh ourselves with victuals, and to take some rest, having toiled all the night before; and amongst the rest Sir Henry Palmer was pleased to stay dinner, where we drank Prince Henry's health round, to handsel the standing cup given at the launching.

The 25th of September, 1612, the new charter for incorporating the shipwrights of England, granted by king James, in which, by the same charter, I was ordained first master, I was sworn in my place of master, the dinner being kept at the king's head in Fish Street, Mr. Dr. Pay making the sermon at the next church adjoining. About this time my picture was begun to be drawn by a Dutchman, working then with Mr. Rock at Rochester.

Mr. Pette mentions the sickness and death of Prince Henry, at which time, he adds, began my ensuing misfortunes, and

found

the utter downfall of all my forlorn hopes, to the ruin of all my poor posterity, being now exposed to the malicious practices of my old enemies. Upon my going to St. James's, I found a house turned to a *mapp** of true sorrow, every man with the character of grief written in his dejected countenance. About six at night, November 6, the most renowned prince of the world, our royal and most loving master, departed this life, not only to the loss and utter undoing of his poor servants, but the general loss of all Christendom of the Protestant religion. The beginning of December I had warning to attend at St. James's upon the preparation of the funeral of our master, and had black cloth delivered to me according to the place I was ranked in above stairs, which was of gentleman of the privy chamber extraordinary ; and the sixth day, being Sunday, all his highness's servants at St. James's waited upon his herse then standing in the chapel, to whom Dr. Price, then one of his highness's chaplains, directed an excellent sermon. His text was 2 Sam. ch. iii. v. 31. *Rent your clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourn for Abner.* There were very few at the sermon who mourned not bitterly, and shed abundance of tears.

The 6th of January, 1612, I received a letter from the Lord High Admiral, together with a list of those ships that were appointed to be made ready to transport the lady Elizabeth, with warrant to be grained and fitted accordingly.

January 1612. The 11th day I was sent for from Chatham by a messenger to attend the Lord Admiral, lying then at Chelsea, which accordingly I presently performed, and rode to London, where I stayed full three days, the Lord Admiral

* Mape in MS.

sitting every of those in council, attended by the principal officers of the navy, the masters and master shipwright, to resolve not only for the preparation of the fleet to attend the transportation, but also for preparing many vessels to be built upon long-boats and barges for ships and gallies for a sea-fight, to be presented before Whitehall against the marriage of the lady Elizabeth ; the manner whereof concluded and ordered in writing, I was licensed to go to Chatham to take order for the Disdain, and sending up of as many long-boats and sear-barges as could be spared from the navy ; which having ordered, I returned again presently to London, and did there attend daily in overseeing those businesses, which were put out by the great to divers yard-keepers by reason of the shortness of time limited for making them ready against the marriage. By reason of this my continual attendance, not only upon that service, but also upon the Admiral and Sir Robert Mansel (principally entrusted to the ordering of the whole service) I first took lodging at Westminster, near Sir Robert's house, in St. Stephen's alley, where I continued many years after. Amongst other vessels fitted for this piece of service was an old pinnace of the king's, called the Spy, of the burden of sixty tons, having nine pieces of brafs ordnance appointed to serve as an argossey, whereof I was somewhat against my will (by the Lord Admiral's persuasion) made to serve as captain, in which jesting business I ran more danger than if it had been a sea-service in good earnest. After the sea-service was performed, I was intreated by divers gentlemen of the inns of business, whereof Sir Francis Bacon was chief, to attend the bringing of a mask by water in the night from St. Mary Over's to Whitehall in some of the gallies ; but the tide falling out very contrary, and the company attending
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the maskers very unruly, the project could not be performed so exactly as was purposed and expected. But yet they were safely landed at the plying stairs at Whitehall, for which my pains the gentlemen gave me a fair recompence.

The marriage consummated, and the royalties ended, the Lord Admiral gave me a present dispatch to post to Chatham, and get the fleet ready, the Prince being appointed to go admiral, to transport the lady Elizabeth and the Palsgrave's person, and the lord admiral to command her. On the 27th of February I launched the small ship I had begun the summer before, which the Lord Admiral was pleased to call the Phœnix, and was also appointed one of the fleet, under the command of Sir Allen Apsley, then victualler of the navy. About the 14th of March, the Lord Admiral, very careful to have all things ordered as befitting the royalty of such a service, came down to Chatham in person, and stayed two days to direct all things to his liking, wherein I gave his lordship much satisfaction, and by the end of the month I had by my diligence fitted the whole fleet to sail to Gillingham. The first of April, being Monday, the prince sailed over the chain, captain John King being master; the Lord Admiral being newly come to Chatham, came aboard of us, as we were under sail, and went down in her to Gillingham. On Easter-day, the 4th of April, the Lord Admiral, with his retinue, received the holy sacrament. Dr. Pay, chaplain to the lord William Howard, baron of Effingham, and vice admiral in the Ann Royal, preached and delivered the sacrament. On Easter Tuesday, the lord admiral with all his retinue, removed from Chatham, and came aboard to their several charges at St. Mary Creek at Gillingham, and lay on-board in his own cabin this night. So soon as prayers were done this evening,

and the tables covered, the Lord Admiral, out of his noble favour to me, called me, and there ordered me to take my place at his table all the voyage, and would not commonly have grace said till his lordship had seen me sit down, except I was upon earnest busines, and gave his officers charge to let me at all times have what I would of his own provisions. The 7th we set sail from Gillingham, wind South-west, a pretty fresh gale. The ship wrought exceeding well, and was so yare of conduct that a foot of helm would steer her. We came to an anchor at Queenborough, and there lay all night. He then mentions, how by the inattention of the master, and from other circumstances, the prince was put aground, and could not be got off till the next tide; and adds, that this unfortunate accident not only discouraged the Lord Admiral, but also gave advantage to the ship's enemies, of whom the lord of Northampton was chief, to persuade the lady Elizabeth not to venture her person in such a vesel that had so ill a beginning, but rather to embark herself in some other ship, and to return home. He observes, that with the ship's company, and the Lord Admiral's retinue, the number of persons on-board could not be less than eight hundred.

The 15th we came to an anchor in Margate road; the next day the Lord Admiral went ashore at Margate, and lay there three days, at Mr. Roger Morris's, one of the four masters of his majesty's navy, and then returned aboard. The 21st, the lady Elizabeth, his grace the Palsgrave, and all their train, came to Margate, and were embarked in barges and the ships boats, and were received on-board the admiral, and lay there all night. The 22d the wind getting Easterly, and likely to be foul weather, her highnes and the Palsgrave, and most part of her train, were carried ashore to Margate. The 25th

they

they were all brought on-board again ; presently we set sail, and that night anchored without the Foreland. He then proceeds in his account of the voyage, and observes, that whilst the prince lay at Flushing there were such a multitude of people, men, women, and children, that came from all parts of Holland to see the ship, that those belonging to it could scarce have room to go up and down till night, and that the confluence lasted from the time they anchored till they weighed from Flushing.

The 29th we weighed upon the flood, and turning up to Flushing some mile short of the town, her highness, with the Palatine, and most part of the train, were embarked in the barges and boats, being very fair weather, and was saluted with all the ordnance of the whole fleet, and landed at Flushing, where they were received with all royalty, and saluted with all the ordnance of the town and castles, and guarded with the soldiers and garrison of the town ; our ships anchored a little above the Rammapeers ; this afternoon I went on shore to attend the Lord Admiral, and lay in Flushing, our charges being defrayed by the town. The 30th day, being Friday, the Count Palatine took leave of her highness, and went post to the Palatinate.

May 1613. This forenoon, being Monday, divers of our retinue took a coach and rode to Camphire to see the island ; this afternoon her highness and her train were received into Middleburgh with all royalty. The second day, being Sunday, the burghers feasted her highness at the town-house ; this evening the Lord Admiral brought me to take leave of her highness, and to kiss her hand ; the next day her highness took leave of the Lord Admiral and his train, having attended her to the place where she was embarked ; which done, the Lord
Admiral

Admiral returned from Middleburgh in her barge on-board the Prince, where he found such a multitude of people, men, women and children, that came from all places in Holland to see the ship, that we could scarce have room to go up and down till very night, which confluence of people lasted from the time we anchored at Flushing till we weighed thence. The 4th day the Lord Admiral gave order we should weigh from Flushing to avoid the number of people, which accordingly was done, and we fell down to Cassant Hogut, where we anchored all that day and next night.

The 7th day, the wind continuing Easterly, we weighed and set sail, and by twelve o'clock we came to anchor at Gillingham, from whence I attended the Lord Admiral in his barge to Chatham, where he lay that night at Mr. Legatt's house. I found my wife and family in health, and gave God thanks for his preservation of us in our journey and safe return home, to our mutual comforts.

June 1613. At Whitsuntide Sir Robert Mansel was committed to the Marshalsea upon some displeasure his majesty took against him, by the instigation of the lord Northampton, where he was detained prisoner till the 13th of June following, when he was released at Greenwich.

The 22 of June, 1613, the king of Denmark came suddenly to Somerset-house unexpected. The first of August my gracious master, king James, with the king of Denmark, prince of Wales, and many other lords, came to Woolwich, and went on-board the Mer Honeur, then lying in the dry dock, and almost finished, which ship liked them wondrous well. Here our king took leave of his majesty of Denmark, returning to Whitehall. From thence the king of Denmark took barge to Gravesend, accompanied with the Prince and

Lord

Lord Admiral ; Sir Robert Mansel and myself were commanded to attend them. The 2d, the king of Denmark was entertained on-board the Prince, riding at her moorings in the river of Chatham, the Prince of Wales and the Lord Admiral accompanying, Sir Robert Mansel and myself attending. The ship was completely rigged; and all her sails at the yards, richly adorned with ensigns and pendants all of silk, which gave a very great contentment to the king of Denmark, yet it was a very rainy foul day. From thence they returned to Gravesend, where the king of Denmark took leave, and embarked in his own ship.

The 25th of July, 1614, the archbishop of Canterbury lay at Rochester, and went aboard the Prince, where he was entertained with a banquet of sweetmeats by Sir Robert Mansel, myself attending.

About the 27th of March, 1615, I bargained with Sir Walter Raleigh to build him a ship of five hundred tons, which I procured leave from the Lord Admiral to build in the Galley Dock at Woolwich, towards which I presently received £. 500. to begin with, and the 8th of April following I set my men to work on her. In July, Sir Henry Manwaring caused me to build a small pinnace of forty tons for the lord Zouch, then lord warden of the Cinque Ports—towards the whole of the hull and rigging I received only £. 100. from my lord Zouch ; the rest Sir Henry Manwaring cunningly received in my behalf, without my knowledge, which I could never get from him but by piece-meal, so that by the bargain I lost at least £. 100. The 16th of December I launched the great ship of Sir Walter Raleigh's, called the Destiny, and had much ado to get her into the water, but I delivered her to him afloat in good order, by which busines I lost £. 100. and could

could never get any recompence for it, Sir Walter going to sea, and leaving me unsatisfied.

The 19th of July, 1616, the great duke of Buckingham, lately made Lord High Admiral of England, came to visit the navy then riding at Chatham, accompanied with divers lords, and Sir Robert Mansel, who, on his being here, used me with such extraordinary respect that wrought me much prejudice in the opinion of the commissioners, who ever after plotted my ruin, and to bring me out of favour with the Admiral and the king himself. The 20th of November, attending at Theobalds to deliver his majesty a petition, his majesty in his princely care of me, by means of the honourable Lord Admiral, had before my coming bestowed on me for the supply of my present relief the making of a knight baronet, which I afterwards passed under the broad seal of England for one Francis Ratcliff of Northumberland, a great recusant, for which I was to have £. 700; but, by reason Sir Arnold Herbert (who brought him to me) played not fair play with me, I lost some £. 30. of my bargain.

In the beginning of 1622, before I was two months out of England in a voyage against the Algier pirates, by the malice of Mr. Burrell, and some of the rest of the commissioners of the navy, divers master shipwrights of the Thames, and masters of the Trinity house, were ordered to Chatham to survey the state of the Prince; amongst which commissioners were, besides old Burrell and his son, my fellow Stevens, Granes, Dearsley, Barnes, Thomas Brumnetting of Woodbridge, and one Chanler, a creature of Burrell's, and divers other mariners, who maliciously certified the ship to be un-serviceable, and not fit to continue; that what charges should be bestowed upon her would be lost, which they certified under their

their hands. But the 24th of February, by especial command of his majesty, who well understood their malicious proceedings, the self same surveyors were again sent to Chatham, who gave under their hands, that the ship might be made serviceable for a voyage to Spain for £. 300. bestowed upon her hull and masts; which certificate was returned under their hands, and given to his majesty; whereupon present warrant was granted to have the ship docked and fitted for a Spanish voyage, which was accordingly done, and brought into dock the 8th of March, 1623, and was launched the 24th of the same at Chatham. About the 17th of February I attended at Theobalds, the very morning the Prince and the Duke of Buckingham took leave of his majesty, to take their journey into Spain, being carried so privately that few knew of it. At their taking horse I kissed both their hands, and they only gave me an item that I should shortly go to sea in the Prince. After the Prince and the rest of the fleet were all fitted and prepared to set sail from the moorings, the St. George and the Antelope fell down to Gillingham, being both appointed to go before to St. Andrew's with the jewels and other provisions; the other noble gentleman, my honoured friend Sir Francis Steward, commanding in her, whom my eldest son John attended as one of his own retinue. Captain Thomas Lane commanded the Antelope. The 2d of May the Prince removed from her moorings to St. Mary Creek; thither came down from London many commissioners of the navy, with Sir Thomas Smith and the Lord Brook, who plotted to hinder me going the voyage which the king had commanded me, but their malicious practices were prevented. The 17th I took leave of his majesty at Greenwich Park, and kissed his hand, with expressions of his favour,

which was not very pleasant to Sir John Cook, then present. The first of July came to anchor in Stoke's Bay, by Portsmouth. The 20th of August, his majesty, then lying in the New Forest at Beaulx house, came on-board the Prince, with the marquis of Hamilton, the lord Chamberlain, Holderness, Kelly, Carlisle, Montgomery, and divers other attendants, and dined on-board our admiral, the earl of Rutland being at London. His majesty was very pleased, and after dinner lay hovering in his barge till all the ships had discharged their ordnance, and then landed at Calshot castle. An account of the voyage to Spain is given by Mr. Pette. On the return he landed at Dover, October 16th 1624.

The 24th of May, 1624, being sent for to St. James's, I received a gold chain from Robert Carr, by his highness's order, valued at £. 104. as a reward for my attendance this voyage, which I was commanded to wear one day, and to attend his highness to parliament, from whom I received very gracious respects. About the end of December the Prince was docked to be fitted for sea; meanwhile the duke of Brunswick came to Chatham, with divers of the prince's servants, and came on-board the ship in the dock. The 29th of January she was launched, and soon after her masts set, and divers other ships graved,* and made ready for a voyage to sea. The 28th of March, 1625, certain news was brought to Chatham of king James's death; and the next day his majesty was proclaimed among us in the navy at the Hill-house, the masters, boatwains, pursers, and gunners, belonging to the navy, being present.

All April and May I attended at Chatham, to repair the fleet then bound to fetch over the queen. In the latter end of

* Graved in MS.

May his majesty came to Rochester, where I presented myself to him in the Dean's yard, and kissed his hand, and had speech with him till he came into the house where he dined. I attended all the dinner while, and waited his majesty's coming by towards Canterbury : he alighted at my house, and staid there awhile, and gave me leave to drink his health, and returned to his coach, ordering me to follow him, and hasten on board the Prince then in the Downs, which I presently did, and lay at Sandwich that night. Next day I was on-board the Vanguard, captain Pennington commander, bound for France, where I met Sir Thomas Button, captain Edward Gyles, and other good company, where I dined, and then was set on-board the Prince. The 4th of June his majesty came on-board the Prince, riding then in Dover road, where he dined, and was safely landed again, yet this evening we let slip from the Downs in very bad weather. The 9th we anchored in Bulloign road ; the 10th we had a storm, the wind Northwest, all our ships drove ; we broke our best bower, and were forced to let go our sheet anchor, which put us to great danger of losing both men and boats. Sunday the 12th of June, all things prepared, and the storm allayed, about eleven o'clock we received our young queen ; and, having a fair leading gale fit to entertain a queen, we sailed from Bulloign at one o'clock, and landed her at Dover before eight.

In 1627, I received warrant from the lord duke of Buckingham to go to Portsmouth, there to hasten the fleet out, which I did accordingly, taking my journey from Lambeth, August 1. During my stay at Portsmouth I saw many passages, and the disaster which happened to the lord duke.

In the same year his majesty gave me a blank for making a baronet, which was signed by his own hand. About the

beginning of June, 1629, by captain Pennington's procure-
ment, I passed the baronet formerly given me by the king, for
which the captain received for me £. 200. which he sent to
Woolwich.

In 1630, towards the middle of February, there was a re-
solution, by his majesty and the lords of the Admiralty, to
make an addition of assistants to the principal officers of the
navy; Mr. William Burrell was one, and myself, by his ma-
jesty's appointment, the other, not without strong opposition,
which not prevailing, there was a letter under his majesty's
signet to the officers and ourselves to sit with them, to autho-
rize us to proceed together in all business concerning his ma-
jesty's service, which was twice read at the public meeting in
Mincing-lane. The 8th of March we took our places at the
board, when it was concluded first to begin a general survey
of the whole navy at Chatham, and all the stores within and
without doors, and to put out by the great, as we should
think fit, the repair of all the ships that were deficient; which
was wholly recommended to Mr. Burrell and myself, and
effectually performed by us, the work being put to Mr. God-
dard, one of the master shipwrights, to be done by contract.

The 4th of August there was a great commission sent to
Portsmouth for viewing the harbour and river running up to
Fareham, for removing his majesty's navy to a more safe
road; all the principal officers of the navy, with his majesty's
masters of the navy, and six of the chief masters of the Tri-
nity-house. There was much dispute and contrariety about
the busness, but at last a fair agreement was concluded.
About the 23d of November I was sent to Portsmouth to en-
quire after the worm, which was reported to eat the ships in
the harbour. Several master shipwrights being joined with

me,

me, we found upon oath that it was only a rumour to hinder the keeping of any of his majesty's ships in that harbour. At the end of December his majesty signed my patent for the place of a principal officer and commissioner of the navy, and January 19 following I had my letters patent read publicly at the navy-office in Mincing-lane. and accordingly took my place among them. The 26th they were publicly read before the whole navy men at Chatham.

The 21st of April, 1631, his majesty, with divers of the lords, *viz.* Treasurer, Chamberlain, marquis of Hamilton, Holland, and others, came to Woolwich to see the Vanguard launched, which was performed to his majesty's great content. I entertained them in my lodgings with cakes, wine, and other things, that were well accepted. His majesty commanded me into his barge with him, designing to see the St. Dennis at Deptford, in the dry dock, but, the rain preventing him, I was put into a pair of oars. On Friday morning the Victory, lying above the Vanguard, was launched out of the same dock,

In the beginning of the year 1632, I was commanded to assist my son Peter in building a new ship of eight hundred tons at Woolwich, which was begun in February, most part of her frame being made in the forest of Shotover and Stowkwood, Oxfordshire. My son had the oversight of the work. About the 8th of June his majesty came to Woolwich to see the work; I entertained him in my lodgings, and attended his majesty to Deptford, where he landed to see the new ship built by Mr. Goddard.

The 30th of January, 1633, the new ship at Woolwich was launched, his majesty being present, and stood in my lodgings. It was fair weather, and a good tide, so the ship

was

was put into the water without straining the tackle, which much pleased his majesty, who soon after took his barge for Whitehall. The ship's name was Charles, after his own name. The next day Mr. Goddard's ship was launched; the king and queen were present, and was called after the queen's name, the Henrietta Maria.

1634. The Leopard, built at Woolwich by his son Peter Pette.

The 22d of June, a little ship completely rigged, gilded, and finished, was placed on a carriage, whose wheels resembled the sea, being enclosed in a great box, was sent in the Fortune pink to London, and carried in a wherry to Scotland-yard, and thence to St. James's, where it was placed in the long gallery, where it was presented to the prince, who entertained it with great joy, being purposely made to disport himself withal. The 26th his majesty came to Woolwich in his barge to see the frame of the Leopard, then half built; and, being in the ship's hold, he called me aside privately, and told me his resolution of building a great new ship, which he would have me undertake; and said, you have made many requests to me, and now I will make it my request to you, to build the ship; commanding me to attend his coming to Wanstead, where he would farther confer about it. October 29th, the model of this great ship being finished, was carried to Hampton Court, and placed in the gallery, and then carried back to Whitehall, till his majesty's return thither.

March the 11th, 1635, his majesty came to Woolwich to see the new ship, built by my son, launched. I caused her masts to be set in the dock, and completely rigged her, having on-board ten pieces of ordnance, with the sails at the yards.

yards. The ship being launched betimes, she was, at his command, named the Leopard by Sir Robert Mansel. After she was clear out of the dock, his majesty came and stayed almost an hour on-board. We hoped to have sailed her with his majesty on-board, but the wind came against us. The middle of April his majesty was pleased to renew my privy seal for my pension of £.40. *per ann.* payable in the Exchequer, with orders for all my arrears due on it; and May 8, my son Peter received the same arrears, being £.100.

May 14, I took leave of his majesty at Greenwich, with his command to hasten into the North to provide and prepare the frame, timber, plank, and treenails, for the new ship to be built at Woolwich; and having dispached all warrants and letters concerning the busines, and some impress of monies for travelling charges, I left Woolwich, and got to Chatham. I left my sons to see the moulds and other necessaries shipped in a Newcastle ship, hired on purpose to transport our provisions and workmen to Newcastle, and to send the ship and take us in at Queenborough. Mr. Pette gives a circumstantial detail of this voyage, of the occurrences he met with in the North, and of his return home. At Stockton we found mean entertainment, though lodged in the maior's house, which was a mean thatched cottage. Lodged at the Post-house in Durham, with homely entertainment.—Attended the bishop of Durham with my commissions and instructions, whom I found wonderfully ready to assist us, with other knights, gentlemen, and justices of the county, who took care to order present carriage, so that in a short time there was enough of the frame ready to lade a large collier, which was landed at Woolwich, and as fast as provisions could be got ready, they were shipped off from Chapley-wood

at

at Newcastle, and that at Branspeth Park from Sunderland. The 30th of July we dined at Huntingdon, where I met my old acquaintance and noble friend Sir Oliver Cromwell. I lodged at the Falcon in Cambridge, and visited Emmanuel college, where I was formerly a scholar. I passed the Ferry at Gravesend, August 4, on my return home.

November 4, my son Peter met me at Woolwich, where we gave orders for our proceedings. The 21st of December we laid the ship's keel in the dock, most part of her frame coming safe, was landed at Woolwich. The 16th of January, 1636, his majesty, with divers lords, came to Woolwich to see part of the frame and floor laid, and that time he gave orders to myself and my son to build two small pinnaces out of the great ship's waste. The 28th his majesty came again to Woolwich with the Palgrave, his brother, duke Robert, and divers other lords, to see the pinnaces launched, which were named the Greyhound and Roebuck. About the 10th of April his majesty's ship the Ann Royal, bound Admiral for the narrow seas, anchoring in Tilbury Hope, being unmoored, and shifting upon the flood, came foul on her own anchor, which pulled out a great deal of her keel abaft the mast, and in sinking suddenly was overthrown. Some of her company were drowned, and among them the master's wife and another woman. Myself, among others, was commanded by his majesty to assist the weighing her, which cost much trouble, great charge, and no small danger to those that were employed in it, which afterwards was objected to them as a fault, and they received a check from the lords. The ship was weighed, and carried into the East India dock at Blackwall, about the 10th of August.

The

The 3d of February, 1637, his majesty, the prince Elector, and divers lords, came to Woolwich by water, and after viewing the work without board, they did the same within board, both aloft and in the hold, being well satisfied. Then retiring to my lodgings, they staid till the flood, and then returned in his majesty's barge to Whitehall.

Tuesday the 29th of August proved very rainy, yet the shipwrights of the river, who were called to help to strike the ship on her ways, being come, we struck her by eleven o'clock. The 25th of September was the day peremptorily appointed by his majesty to launch the ship, so every thing was prepared to be in readiness. His majesty, accompanied with the queen, and all the lords and ladies their attendants, landed at Woolwich dock stairs about twelve o'clock, and went directly on-board the ship, where staying about an hour, they retired into our room, furnished for their entertainment. About two o'clock the tackles were heaved taught, and the ship started till the tackles failed, and the water pinched, being a very bad tide. Then we shored the ship, and their majesties returned to Whitehall, very sorry she could not be launched. After attempting two or three tides, we concluded to stay till the next spring, the ship being so easy she could receive no damage. After our resolution of letting the ship remain till the next spring, which was about the 12th of October, in the interim many reports were raised to disable the ship, and bring as much disgrace on me as malice could possibly invent; all proceeding from the masters of the Trinity-house, and other rough hewn seamen, with whom Mr. Cook, one of four masters of his majesty's navy, anxiously adhering, to please Mr. Secretary Cooke, and Mr. Eddisbury the Surveyor of the Navy, all professed enemies to the building, and more to me,

I joined

joined together to cast what aspersions, as far as they durst, for fear of the king's displeasure. But the spring coming on, Sir Robert Mansel called a meeting at Woolwich of such Trinity masters as were employed in the business, with all the officers of the navy, to resolve on the time of launching, which was generally concluded to be the Sunday following, being October 14, and that I should not attempt to stir her before. But the Saturday night, the wind chopping fair Westerly, promising a great tide, I caused the two masters of the navy to be ready, commanding all the hands we could on sudden to attend us, contrary to the mind of Mr. Cooke, who was unwilling to meddle with the ship in the night. But Mr. Ausiem, being the most resolute man, was for taking the first opportunity. The tide came on so fast that the ship was afloat by three quarters flood; so I ordered to heave her out, which done, and the ship brought into the channel by several warps, she was got to her moorings, lights being made all along the shore with reeds till the moorings were made fast to the bits; which done, I sent a messenger to Sir Robert Mansel at Greenwich, who came aboard with all speed, and, according to his majesty's order, called her *The Sovereign of the Seas**. The next morning the Trinity masters and others came to give their attendance, but finding the ship at her moorings, they were much discontented, which they expressed as much as they could. This morning Sir Robert Mansel rode post to his majesty then at Hampton-court, and acquainted him with our proceedings, with which he was well pleased. The week following we reared our

* Not *The Royal Sovereign*, as styled by Mr. Willett in Memoir of British Naval Architecture, Archæol. vol. XI. p. 164. And in the Lists of the Navy, given at pp. 172, 174, there is, as I suspect, another ship mis-named, viz. *More Honour*, because in the Life of Pette he mentioned *Mer Honour*, i. e. as I imagine, *The Sea's Glory*.
sheers

sheers to set our masts, which were all done in fourteen days; and as soon as the rigging was fixed, and the sails at the yards, we removed from Woolwich to Erith for depth of water. His majesty had been on-board before she removed thence. The 6th of June following, his majesty, with the queen, the duchess of Sheverees, duke and duchess of Lenox, and divers other lords and ladies, came on-board the ship at Greenhithe, where they dined. At their going away we gave them seventeen guns. About the 12th of June the Sovereign weighed from Greenhithe, and anchored below Gravesend, where she rode till his majesty came on-board, which was July 21. Whilst his majesty was on-board, he observed the condition of the ship, how she rode ready to sail, the draught of water, distance of the lower tire of ports from the water, number of guns, and other circumstances, to her complete furnishing, with which he was mightily pleased. I had placed my then wife, Byland, Daughter Fenn, and many other gentle-women, my special friends, in the great cabin, to kiss his majesty's hand; and prevailing with his majesty to go aft into the cabin, he most graciously gave each his hand to kiss. Then he took barge, and we saluted him with seventy-two guns.

Thursday morning, September 27, I took leave of my family at Chatham and rode to Gravesend, there took boat to Woolwich, where I stayed one night, and with my son Peter went by water to Kingston, where we lay in a private house, the inns being full. The next day we went by water to Hampton-court, where we presented ourselves to his majesty, who used us very graciously, where we spent all the day; at night returning to our lodgings at Kingston. The next morning we rode to Sion-house, to wait on the Lord Admiral, who presently commanded us to hasten to Chatham,

to prepare barges and boats to be sent to Dover to receive
the Queen Mother expected there.

The Life of Mr. Phineas Pette is in the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS, vol 6279; but it was from a copy that the preceding extracts were made, and I am not apprized whether the transcript I had contained the whole of the original MS. Supposing the memoirs not to be brought down to a later period than the year 1637, there are, as I apprehend, ten years of the life of the writer that are unnoticed, because I am apt to believe, that he may be the person who is thus entered in the register belonging to the parish of Chatham.

Phineas Pette, esq. and captain, was buried 21st August, 1647.

At page 282 of these extracts a note is inserted respecting a ship called *Mer Honneur*. In the underwritten passages in the life of Mr. Pette this ship is thus mentioned.

The latter end of July, 1612, I received orders to take charge of the building of the Defiance, then in the dry dock at Woolwich, old Mr. Baker having the charge of re-building the *Mer Honneur*, at the same time, in the same dock. About the middle of August Mr. Baker sickened, and perceived it would be his death, and was determined to recommend me to the finishing of the *Mer Honneur*, and to this end importuned me to ride to Windsor to the Lord Admiral, to signify his earnest suit to his lordship first, which I willingly consented to, and had his lordship's warrant at the same time for it, he dying the last of the month. The 25th of March, 1613, it pleased God to preserve my life aboard *Honneur*, being only going from deck to deck, narrowly escaped falling into

the

the hold, which would certainly have dashed me to pieces. The 14th of June, my honourable and implacable enemy, lord Northampton, died at his house at Charing-cross. The 1st of August, my gracious master king James, with the king of Denmark, came to Woolwich, and went aboard the *Mer Honeur*, that lying in the dry dock, and almost finished; which ship pleased them wonderfully. In the end of November, all the workmen that wrought on the *Mer Honeur* were discharged; the 6th the *Mer Honeur* and the *Defiance* were both launched in one tide; and the 25th of April following both sailed from Woolwich, and the next day came to their moorings at Chatham.

“ I am informed, writes Fuller, in his Worthies of England, under article Kent, that the mystery of shipwrights for some descents hath been preserved successively in families, of which the Pettes about Chatham are of singular regard.”

From Memoir on British Naval Architecture, by Ralph Willett, esq. Archæologia, vol. XI. article XVIII, p. 176.
Extract from Heywood the Historian’s description of the Sovereign.

“ The prime workman is captain Phineas Pette, overseer of the work, whose ancestors, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, for the space of two hundred years and upwards, have continued in the same name, officers and architects in the Royal Navy.” As this ship, observes Mr. Willet, was built in 1637, the account would carry something like a regular establishment as far back as 1437, the reign of king Henry the Sixth. However, it is a remarkable account of this family,

family, especially as I can farther add, that the same family made a distinguished figure in the same line, and the same office, in the king's yard to the end of William the Third. But to return to Heywood. "The master builder is young Mr. Pette, who, before he was twenty-five years of age, made the model, and perfected the work: the master carvers are John and Matthew Christmas, &c."

Quere. Was not Peter the fifth son of Phineas Pette, the young Mr. Pette alluded to by Mr. Heywood?

Of this son there is this notice in the MS Life of Mr. Pette. "1610, August 6, my wife was delivered of her fifth son."

See other notices of Peter in these extracts.

Copy of Passages in the Life of Mr. Phineas Pette, in which
he has mentioned his relations.

I Phineas Pette, being the son of Mr. Peter Pette, of Deptford Strand, in the county of Kent, one of her majesty's shipwrights, was born in my father's dwelling-house in the same town, November 1, 1570.

In the year 1589, about the 6th of December, it pleased God to call to his mercy my revered loving father, whose loss proved afterwards my utter undoing almost, had not God been more merciful to me, for, leaving all things to my mother's directions, her fatal matching with a most wicked husband, one Mr. Thomas Num, a minister, brought a general ruin to herself and family.

At Candlemas, 1599 (after leaving Emanuel college in Cambridge), I was contented, by the instant persuasion of my mother, to put myself to be an apprentice to become a shipwright, my father's profession, and was bound a covenant servant to one Mr. Richard Chapman of Deptford, one

of

of her majesty's master shipwrights, and one whom my father had bred of a child to that profession.

My eldest brother by my father's side, Mr. Joseph Pette, succeeded in my father's place, one of her majesty's master shipwrights; which preferment God brought him to, the better to have enabled him to have given his help to us, but we found clear contrary.

To my setting out to sea, in 1592, I found none of my kindred so kind as to help me with either money or cloaths, or any other comfort, only another brother I had by my father's side, Peter Pette, then dwelling at Wapping, that vouchsafed me lodging, meat, and drink, till the ship was ready to sail.

We, extreme poor, returned for Ireland into the river of Cork, and taking leave of both ship and voyage, I travelled to Divaling, to visit my uncle Thornton, and my brother Noah, being then master with him in the Popinjay of the queen's majesty, and presently after bent my course to England.

With some difficulty, I got to London three days before Christmas, 1594, having neither money nor apparel, and took up my lodging at my brother Peter Pette's house in Wapping, who, although I was returned very poor, yet vouchsafed me kind entertainment. The next day I presented myself to my brother Joseph, who received me very coldly, yet of his bounty sent me forty shillings to apparel myself. About 1594, it so fell out, that there were certain of his majesty's ships appointed to be made ready for the voyage of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins, amongst which the Defiance was to be brought into Woolwich dock to be sheathed, which being committed to my brother Joseph's care,

care, he was content to admit me, amongst many others, to be one, where I was contented to take any pains to get something to apparel myself.

In 1593, the new building of the Triumph was appointed to my brother Joseph's charge, with whom I a while continued, but finding him unwilling to prefer me in his work, as next under him, with some passage of discontent betwixt us, I left him.

After I was discharged from the Repulse, my brother Joseph entertained me at Woolwich upon the Triumph, which ship I wrought till her launching, and the discharge of men from her, and afterwards was employed at my brother's at Limehouse, upon a small model for my Lord Treasurer's house at Theobalds.

In the beginning of the year 1597, my dear and loving mother deceased, at Weston in Suffolk.

About Bartholomew next following, the Elizabeth Jonas was brought into her majesty's dock at Woolwich, and there was the first preferment my brother Joseph helped me to, making me principal overseer of that business under him. During all the time of this work, we both lodged and dined at old Mr. Lydiard's in the yard.

I was married to my now wife Ann, the daughter of Richard Nichols, of Highwood Hill, in the parish of Hendon in Middlesex, a man of good report, and honest stock, the 15th of May, 1598, at Stepney church.

Mr. Pette, under the year 1599, relates the very ill treatment which his three sisters received after the death of their mother from their father-in-law, Mr. Thomas Num, who, for a very slight offence, furiously fell upon Abigail the eldest, beating her so cruelly with a pair of tongs and a fire-brand,

that

that she died within three days after the beating. He mentions, that, upon complaint to a justice, the body, which had been privately buried, was taken up, and so, by the coroner's inquest which passed upon her, and miraculous tokens of the dead corpse, as fresh bleeding, sensibly opening one of her eyes, and other things, he was found guilty of her death, and so committed and bound over to answer the matter at the next general assizes to be held at Bury, which was in the Lent after. In his arraignment, Sir John Popham, then lord chief justice of England, and chief judge of that circuit, shewed such true justice, (notwithstanding great interest was made for him, not only by his friends, but by the clergy of that county), that all his cruelty and wicked proceedings were laid open, and he convicted of man-slaughter by the jury; was committed to sue for the king's pardon, from whence being shortly freed, by God's just revenging hand, he lived but a short time after.

Upon the occasion of my being placed at Chatham, in 1600, my brother Joseph and I were reconciled, and ever after lived together as loving brethren. By means of his encouragement, I took a lease of the mansion-house at Chatham for twenty-one years, paying £. 25. income, which lease was fealed to me October 17. The 24th, having bestowed all my poor stock upon the lease of my house, and furnishing the same in some convenient manner, I shipped the same in a hoy of Raynam, and so moved to Chatham, myself going down in the hoy, where I missed a great danger, for, at the west end of the Nore, about three o'clock in the morning, about the 28th day, we were were likely to be surprized by a Dunkirk piccaroon full of men, who being at our passing by (although it was very dark) at an anchor, suddenly weighed and gave chase, and had boarded had not God prevented him

by our bearing up, the wind being at East, and running ourselves ashore within the Swatch, [quere, the Swale?]

1601, March 23, my wife was delivered of her first-born son, John; died in 1628.

1603, March 18, my wife was delivered of her second son, Henry; died September 22, 1612.

This year happened the great plague throughout England, but especially at London. The sickness being very hot at Chatham, upon the persuasion of some of my friends, I removed (August 16) my wife and children from thence to my wife's father's, in Middlesex. They remained at Highwood Hill till the 3d of October.

I divers times solicited my brother to be joint-patentee with him; but his remissness caused me to slip the opportunity.

1604, during my attendance at court as his grace's (the prince of Wales's) captain of his ship, it pleased my honourable Lord Admiral to give orders to Sir Thomas Windbank, one of the clerks of the signet, to draw me a bill for the reversion of Mr. Baker's, or my brother Joseph Pette's place, which should first happen.

1605, my eldest brother, Joseph Pette, died November 19. Presently after my brother's decease, it pleased my very good lord, the Lord High Admiral, to grant his warrant for my entrance into my brother's place, to the effect of my letters patent.

1606, my third son, Richard Pette, born June 21.

1608, my fourth son, Joseph, born April 27.

1610, August 6, my wife was delivered of her fifth son; [Quere, Peter?]

1611, My eldest and first daughter was born October 15. [Quere, Anne?]

1614, October 9th, my wife delivered of a son, Phineas; died October 28, 1617.

1617, April 15, my wife was safely delivered of twins—daughters, Mary and Martha. Mary died November 21, 1617.

1618, January 24, my wife was delivered of a son, Phineas.

1620, May 14, my wife was delivered of her eleventh child, the last she had, a son, Christopher.

1623, After the Prince and the rest of the fleet were all fitted and prepared for the voyage to Spain, the St. George and Antelope fell down to Gillingham, being both appointed to go before to St. Andrew, with the jewels and other provisions, the noble gentleman, my honourable friend, commanding her, whom my eldest son, John, attended as one of his retinue.

1625, July 14, my eldest son, John, was married to Kharine, the daughter of Mr. Robert Yardley, deceased.

1627, February 14, being Wednesday, and Valentine's day, my dear wife Anne died in the morning, and was buried the Friday following in Chatham church, leaving behind her a disconsolate husband, and sad family.

This summer my son was made captain of a merchant ship, and served under Sir Sackville Trevor at taking the French ship called the St. Esprit.

1627, in July, I was contracted to my second wife, Mrs. Susan Yardley, Mr. Robert Yardley's widow; the 16th we were married at St. Margaret's, by Mr. Franklyn.

1622, July, my son John was made captain of the Six Whelp, built by my cousin Peter Pette, making choice, by the Duke's leave, of any one of the ten small ships built for the enterprize of Rochelle, with one deck and quarter only, to row as well as sail; I took that for my son, supposing she would prove best, but it fell out the contrary.

I received warrant from my lord duke to go to Portsmouth, there to hasten the fleet out; which I did accordingly, taking my journey from Lambeth, August 1, having my son Richard, &c. The 4th of September my son John took leave of me in the evening, and went on-board his ship, whom I never saw afterwards, he being unfortunately cast away in the return from Rochelle; both ship and men perished in the sea, as was supposed foundered in the storm, which was a great affliction to myself, and his wife, left big with child. She was delivered of a son, Phineas.

1629, November 27, my son Richard died at Woolwich, and was buried in the church chancel the next day. He was my eldest son living, a very hopeful young man, and for his years an excellent artist, being bred up by me to my trade.

1633, April 11, my son Peter made his first visit to Mr. Cole's eldest daughter, of Woodbridge in Suffolk, whom he married. About the middle of August my son Peter had orders to prepare moulds for the frame of a new ship of one hundred tons, to be built by him at Woolwich, and was ordered his timber out of the store of Shotover, Oxon.

1634, The Leopard built at Woolwich by his son.

1634, in the month of February, the James, built by nephew Peter Pette, was launched at Deptford, his majesty being present, where I attended all the while.

1635, March 11, his majesty came to Woolwich to see the new ship built by my son launched. She was named the Leopard.

1635, November 4, My son Peter met me at Woolwich, where we gave orders for our proceedings in building the new great ship (The Sovereign of the Seas).

1636, April 25, My daughter Martha was married at Chat-ham church to John, some time my servant, accompanied with the better sort of my neighbours, who were entertained

in the garden under a tent set up on purpose, where we dined and supped.

On the 21st of July, I brought my wife from Woolwich to Chatham, having been ill some weeks, but was then, to our thinking, very cheerful ; but on Monday morning she fell into a sweet sleep, and so died, and was buried the next Wednesday. Mr. [illegible] preached her funeral sermon.

The 8th of September his wife sickened with a fever, being big with child, and the 19th she died. Her Christian name was Mildred, there being this entry concerning her in the parish register ; "Mildred, wife of Phineas Pette, esq. was buried the 20th of September, 1638."

After the death of his dear wife Anne, Mr. Pette did not remain quite half a year a disconsolate widow ; nor could many months have passed between his wife Susan's falling into a sweet sleep, and his marrying Mildred, whose surname and connections are omitted in the MS.

Sir Phineas Pette, who was resident commissioner of the navy at Chatham in the reign of Charles II *, was probably the son of Phineas Pette, mentioned by his father to have been born January 24, 1618. Sir Phineas was commissioner in 1667, the year in which the Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway and destroyed several ships. In the ensuing year he was impeached in the House of Commons, on a charge of inattention to the security of this harbour ; but the Parliamentary prosecution was soon dropped, it being well known, that the culpable neglect was not in him, but in the king, who

* Dr. Wallis, in his letter, April 7, 1662, to Sir Robert Moray, prefixed to *Conocueus, or the Shipwright's Circular Wedge*, mentions, that the solids and lines, made by the sections thereof, were proposed to his consideration by Mr. Pette, one of his majesty's commissioners for the navy, and an excellent shipwright.

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had idly squandered the large sums of money granted for the national defence.

Peter Pette, the nephew, mentioned by his uncle Phineas as the builder of the James at Deptford in 1634 (Extracts, p. 292), was probably son of the kind brother, Peter Pette of Wapping, with whom the Memorialist occasionally boarded and lodged (Extracts, p. 219); and I am apt to believe the nephew, Peter, might be the father of Peter Pette, who was educated at St. Paul's school, and became afterwards a member of Sidney college in Cambridge, and of Pembroke and All Souls colleges in Oxford. He was also a student of the common law at Gray's Inn; and, being appointed advocate-general to king Charles the Second in Ireland, was chosen a member of the House of Commons in that kingdom, and at length received the honour of knighthood from James duke of Ormond, the Lord Lieutenant. In the account given of him by Mr. Knight in the Life of Dean Colet, p. 407, he is thus described :

"Peter Pette, son, grandson, and great grandson, of Peter Pette (which last, who was grandson of Peter Pette, of Cumberland, had been master-builder in the Navy Royal to queen Mary, and afterwards to queen Elizabeth), was born at Deptford in Kent, &c. &c.

Mr. Willett (see before, p. 285), from what Heywood, the historian, had advanced concerning the Pettes, has inferred, that of the family there were persons in a regular line of descent, who were shipbuilders of eminence in the service of the crown from the reign of Henry VI. to the end of the reign of William the Third. But, as I conceive, the passage just cited from Knight's Life of Dean Colet will not warrant the ascending to so early a period by near a century. For, if I rightly understand the parenthesis, it implies, that Peter Pette,

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father of Joseph and of Phineas, as well as of Peter Pette, was master-builder to queens Mary and Elizabeth ; and what is farther mentioned of Peter Pette the father is, that he was grandson of Peter Pette of Cumberland, without noticing what was the occupation of the grandfather. But, supposing the grandfather to have been a shipwright, is there any evidence of there being in the reign of Henry VI. or in the 15th century, any dock-yard in Cumberland, in which he could have held the office of a principal naval architect to the king ?

Extracts, p. 247. “ I was called personally to answer, and “ *kneeled* right before his majesty, near the side of the table.”

Page 249. “ All this time I sat on my *knees*, baited by the “ great lord and his bandogs ; albeit the prince’s highness la- “ boured to have me eased by standing up, but his majesty “ would not permit it.”

Page 255. “ This day, as it was a very tedious day to “ me, by reason I was to answer all objections, and *kneel* so “ long together, &c.”

To kneel, so as to rest the muscular part of the body on the heels, is a ceremony used in the East, as expressive of the greatest humiliation, and therefore suitable for a devout worshiper in a solemn act of devotion to his Creator. The propriety of this submissive and servile homage from man to his fellow-creature may, however, be thought very questionable, especially when, from the long continuance of it, it must be productive of much fatigue and pain, as was the case in this instance. But James was in his disposition and conduct more like a despotic Eastern potentate than the sovereign of a free people. To dispute what a king might do in the height of his power, as he told his parliament, was as seditious as it was blasphemous to dispute with God. And, though only pres-

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siding on the trial of a shipbuilder on a charge of insufficiency, he could not forbear reminding his auditors, that he was in the seat of God, as his representative and substitute. Of the kind of homage he imposed upon the presumed delinquent, a contemporary monarch judged very differently, this anecdote being related of Gustavus Adolphus: "When the town of Landshut in Bavaria surrendered to him at discretion, the principal inhabitants fell down upon their knees before him on presenting to him the keys of their town. 'Rise, rise,' said he, 'it is your duty to fall upon your knees to God, and not to so frail and feeble a mortal as I am *.'

Page 263. "After midnight the weather was very sore o'er-cast, and a very sore gust of rain, thunder, and lightning, which made me doubt there were some indirect practices among our enemies to dash our launching." ^{I believe an event of history}

Mr. Pette seems to have suspected, that his implacable adversaries might have invoked the wayward sisters, "with whom fair is foul, and foul is fair," to exercise their spells and charms in harrassing him; nor ought his credulity to be a matter of surprize, as the influence of witchcraft was at that time a prevailing notion; and king James himself, who was by his courtiers termed the Solomon of the age, had contributed to strengthen a belief of this superstitious opinion, by his learned elaborate system of Daemonologie.

In a person who has the honour of being F. S. A. it may be deemed somewhat invidious to observe, it was not a mark of the supereminent wisdom of this prince, that he had so unfavourable an opinion of Antiquaries as to suppress their original Society soon after his accession to the throne †.

SAMUEL DENNE.

* European Magazine, July, 1794, p. 35.

† Archæol. vol. I, Introduction, p. xiv.